



NEWSLETTER

NUMBER 21

AUGUST 1991



H.Q. Enlisted Staff GLENDALE ~ 1942

KNEELING: BILL DROVETA, GROUP SGT. MAJOR

Row #1: JOHN O'NIELL, "?", "?", CHARLEY GALLERY, BILL SWEET

Row #2: ? TAYLOR, JOE VOTTA, (ANDY?) REESE, JOHN HICKMAN

Row #3: MIKE RADAWEK, MERV CHRISTIANSEN, SCOTTY GROVES, & MATT WEINER

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FINANCIAL REPORT

FISCAL BALANCE JULY 1/90 - JUNE 30/91

BEGINNING BALANCE

CERTIFICATE DEPOSIT	\$16,412.62
CHECKING 57-000842	923.60
SAVINGS 53-001948	<u>11,488.95</u>
TOTAL BEGINNING NET WORTH	\$28,825.17

INCOME

DONATIONS	\$ 89.00
DUES- LIFE	1,585.00
- SUSTAINING	1,710.00
INTEREST	2,106.35
REUNION 1990	<u>662.89</u>
TOTAL INCOME	\$ 6,153.24

EXPENDITURES

DONATIONS	*	\$ 4,500.00
ENVELOPES	*2	61.53
MISCELLANEOUS	*2	241.65
OFFICE SUPPLIES	*1,2	212.00
PHOTOCOPYING	*1	125.43
PRESENTATION AWARDS		173.93
PRINTING	*1,2	3,191.96
POSTAGE	*1,2	1,527.38
REUNION 1991		212.26
STATIONARY		20.05
TELEPHONE	*1,2	<u>667.97</u>
TOTAL EXPENDITURES		\$10,934.16

ENDING BALANCE

CERTIFICATE DEPOSIT	\$17,990.06
CHECKING 57-000842	1,536.02
SAVINGS 53-001948	<u>4,518.17</u>
TOTAL NET WORTH	\$24,044.25

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FINANCIAL REPORT CONTINUED ON PAGE 15

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PREXY'S SPOT

On Page Ten

Goodbye Old Friends, We will miss you.

VIRGINIA BROOKS

Ginny was the widow of Johnny Brooks (96th) - a Crew Chief. Ginny died Oct. 11 from cancer after a short illness.

John had discovered us in '86 as a result of the Lightning Lady publicity and he and Ginny were able to attend the Boise Reunion in '87. Johnny was killed in Arkansas by a drunk driver in '88.

Ginny's son-in-law, Joe Heinzman, notified the Urechs of her death. Besides her daughter Sandy, Ginny left Rob, Troy and Brian.

* * *

HENRY (Red) ECKERT

Fred Graham called a couple of months ago to say he had seen Red's obit in the Retired Sergeant's Association's Newsletter. The item listed Red's address as Hookstown, Pennsylvania so Fred got a phone number and chatted with Mrs. Eckert. She said Red died of pneumonia Feb. 17, 1991. They had no children.

Fred said Red was on his crew and he had been looking for him for years.

* * *

FRANCES GRADY

Frances was the widow of James E. Graddy - a 96th Crew Chief. Jim died soon after the Denver Reunion.

Fred and Ethel Montgomery have exchanged Christmas Cards with Frances but they had no information she was ailing.

* * *

JULES HYMEL

Jules died Nov. 11, 1990 in Luling, LA. He was a pilot in the 95th and became a POW after being shot down in Northern Italy.

Jules was a life member of the Association and attended the Reunion in Asheville last year. Olen Medley recalls a very long and pleasant chat with Jules in Asheville and thinks Jules might have attended the Reunion in New Orleans. Olen has tried to contact Jules' wife Mildred but has had no success.

* * *

RICHARD KERLEY

Richard was an enlisted man in the 97th Squadron. We have no date or cause of death at this time.

Richard has been on our Association's roster for at least five years and he attended the Dayton Reunion.

* * *

LESTER KOCH

Lester died suddenly this spring of a sudden heart attack while visiting in Pharr, Texas. His body was transported to Tremont, Illinois - his home town - for burial.

During the last several years, Lester & Carma had lived in Salem, Oregon.

Lester was a life member of the 82nd FG Association and had attended five of the last seven Reunions.

* * *

RAYMOND H. LYNN

Ray was a pilot in the 96th Squadron and, briefly, served as its C.O. after Harley Vaughn completed his 50. Bud Strozier took over the 96th's reins after Ray returned to the States.

Ray had been bed-ridden for a number of years and had been watched over faithfully by his good friend, Bud Strozier.

* * *

MAIL BAG

FROM AUDREY BARR

Bill is down in Arizona collecting beetles. I'm here in Moscow, Idaho keeping cool with our new air conditioner.

I wanted to alert you. One of my paintings is showing at St. Luke's Hospital in Boise. Their Auxiliary will be using it for one of their Xmas Cards.

Will you be in Denver in August?

(Ed's note #1: I will answer your first and last questions first Audrey. Does an old, beat-up, bedraggled, moth-eaten veteran of the Foggian Wars know where his next meal is coming from?)

(Ed's note #2: 95th pilot Bill Barr is an entomologist and, even though retired professor from the University of Idaho, still maintains a zest to pursue his science. Audrey said he has been searching for one particular beetle - Arizona type - for years and has finally collected 50 of the little buggers)

(Ed's note #3 [Ho Hum]: I occupy a highly enviable position among all of you fascinating 82nd Fighter Group members. I get a first-hand peek at the many different and exciting lives most of you are living.

A few: Tom Kelly chases archeological sites, Jack Sattler writes poetry, Harley Vaughn reads poetry, Al Campbell teaches mechanical engineering, Bob Randall measures eye balls, Art Smedley draws cartoons and carves wooden ducks, Jerry Loewenberg drives little old ladies to Cornell reunions, Roy Norris writes great checks on your bank account, Fred Montgomery writes great jingles, Marlene Phillips runs Reunion tennis matches, T.O. Spence raises peanuts, Slick Morgan scouts Indians along the Erie Canal, Walter Carper is a prospector - he thinks there's gas under the Sargasso Sea, Miles Hoelzel tells great lies, George Marvin raises chickens for show, Jack Walker judges diving championships, Bob Hildobrandt watches grandchildren grow, June Kingery needle-points a mean looking Slugging Jack-rabbit, Hugh O'Brien does something, Dick Willsie runs some kind of an old WWII fighter plane outfit,

Jake Hendrix is a former admiral of a big canoe in Long Beach Harbor - and the beat goes on.

Audrey! See what you started?)

** ** *

FROM FRED DUNLAP

(Ed's note: This wasn't a letter, it was a phone call. And it wasn't really from Fred. It was from his son. Somehow, Fred had heard that the 82nd F.G. Association was holding a reunion in Denver and his son agreed to make the call to me. There's a chance Fred saw the Reunion notice in NARFE's [The National Association of Retired Federal Employees] magazine.

Fred had been in the 82nd Fighter Group but not during WWIItime. He wondered if there were members in our Association from his era.

We have since sent Fred some information about our Association and an invitation to attend our Denver Reunion. - RL)

** ** *

FROM EVERETT FARNHAM

Thanks for the great literature you sent - especially the "Sluggers" - since I was a part of that squadron. You mentioned a roster of 96th personnel - I'd love to see one but haven't as yet. Looking forward to seeing you in Denver.

** ** *

FROM WILL HATTENDORF

I'll get a note off to Fred Dunlap and suggest he send Roy his request for an Associate Membership. I will have the Executive Committee formally accept his membership in Denver.

An interesting note: While driving to Jacksonville (to take Betty to the Mayo Clinic there) in early May we stopped en route at a Holiday Inn in Valdosta GA. As we arrived in front of the Motel, several bus loads of "oldsters" were pulling out to go somewhere.

A Registration Table, etc. inside gave evidence as to the group's mission. I helped myself to some of their propaganda and thought you might find it of interest.

(Ed's note: The "oldsters" were members of the 69th TFS [Tactical Fighter Squadron] and they called themselves the "WEREWOLVES"! They were celebrating the 50th Anniversary of the forming of the 69th Pursuit Squadron. Their membership includes reps from WWII to and including the Gulf War. This has been their 9th reunion and only two of them have been west of the Mississoopi)

** ** *

FROM JOHN HENDRIX

(Ed's note: Jake conveyed some Squadron Insignia art work to us that was done by Fred Gong, 97th Squadron Bombardier. He thought you would be interested in some of Fred's comments about his 82nd role)

Fred said Walt Zurney was his pilot and did a perfect job in lining up a bridge so Fred could hit it dead center. Fred said he was with the 82nd for about five months at the end of 1944 and was very of proud his performance and of Walt's skillful piloting as well.

** ** *

knew him very well. He had records of all the radiomen and he would know about McSpadden.

I've been reading George Will's book entitled "Men At Work" and am using your latest postcard as a bookmark. If you are interested in baseball, you should read this book.

The piece in the last newsletter about Bob Schultz and Walter Carlson has prompted me to tell the following story:

Sometime after the middle of October 1943, a B-24 was guided into the Lecce Airport and used up all the runway while landing and ran off into the mud. I don't remember that there was much damage done in the process.

However, the next morning a bunch of us from the Radio Shack inspected it but soon went back to the Radio Shack. Max Pelletier, a sergeant in the Radio Section, listened to us talking about it and went to look it over for himself.

While Max was still looking over the B-24, a P-38 lost power when its engines cut out and crashed into an Italian Macchi and started to burn.



97TH RADIOMEN, FOGGIA

FROM LEFT TO RIGHT:

JIM (OR BILL) McSPADDEN

AL LEMBKE

ALVA MOYER

ELMER LYNCH

ART SCHARDT

+ 1 RAGAZZO

(Photo courtesy of Charlie Horne)

FROM CHARLIE HORNE (two letters)

Included in the last newsletter was a list of names of those intending to attend the upcoming reunion in Denver. The next to the last name should be Louis (and not Lois) Zucal. Louis was the Clerk of the 97th Squadron's Radio Section (of which I was a member) and I

Max (being close by) ran up the wing of the burning 38, popped the canopy and dragged the pilot to safety.

When Max got back to the Radio Shack, nothing was said about the deed. Soon, though, the 97th Communications Officer, Lt. Lehe, came in the Shack and asked Max if he was the one who pulled the pilot to safety and Max admitted he was the one.

Nothing more was said then but a few days later, Max received the Soldier's Medal before a full-dress formation. Soon after this event, and after the Group moved to Foggia, Rotation to the States was started up for the enlisted men and - because of his bravery - Max was the first GI from the 97th to get to go home.

I am also enclosing two snapshots. One of Max Pelletier in a P-38 cockpit and the other of some 97th radiomen including McSpadden and Pelletier.

(Ed's note: Charlie was responding to our request for info regarding the 97's rep in the Link Trainer Section. We knew him only as "Mac" and his last name sort of sounded like McSpadden [or MacDonald or MacIntosh]. We didn't know the guy too well because he wasn't around too much. We talked to Louis Zucal and he couldn't recall the man.

Again, we plead with you 97th GIs - if you can remember the name of the 97th EM who was assigned to the Link Trainer - please let Ol' Dick know.

Charlie Horne will be pleased to know his story about Max Pelletier will appear in Chapter 15, "Adriatic Adventures" of the 82nd Fighter Group History)

** ** *

FROM SHERIL D. HUFF, Secretary,
49th Fighter/Fighter Interceptor
Squadron

Dick,

I had been sending our Newsletter to Paul Jorgensen for several years until he suggested I should begin sending them to you instead.

My feeling is that we P-38 folks from the Mediterranean should stick together for old time's sake. We may need to consolidate later.

(Ed's note: We are submitting Sheril's name to the Executive Committee for inclusion as an Associate Member of the 82nd Fighter Group Association.

We are also envious of Sheril's command of the English language. His newsletters take up both sides of one page! We pray for the gift of brevity. Sheril's Association represents both the 49th Fighter Squadron, 14th F.G. and the 49th Fighter Interceptor Squadron [now deactivated as of July '87]. The Squadron meets by itself for



MAXIE PELLETIER

CHECKING RADIO IN P-38, LECCE

(Photo courtesy of Charlie Horne)

two years and then with the other two squadrons of the 14th in the third year)

** ** *

FROM TED & DOROTHY LATTA

(Ed's note: If Ted were lowered down into some deep, dark pit without visible means of escape, he would find something bright and cheery to say about the whole affair. What follows is excerpted from his long letter)

On the morning of May 13 (Friday the 13th fell on Monday) I awakened to pain in my right leg and hip. The medicos confirmed I have a partially herniated disc at vertebra #L-5. I was restricted to sack for ten days and then modified bed rest with pain pills and physical therapy. If that doesn't work I'm looking at surgery.

So it looks like Dot and I will have to put Denver on hold. Dorothy has had to do all the chores: i.e., cleaning out the barn, mowing the south forty, etc. All this and juggling a cane too. Some lady!

We have talked to Sybil Hooper, the Montgomerys, the Hardings and the Irelands. We also had a nice note from Bill Moseley's Sunday School Class! They are praying for my recovery. Boy, that shows what 82nd friendship is all about. Sure made us feel good.

Do take care of each other and rest assured I've fumigated this letter so you and Jo Ann won't get the yuckies like I did. Drop a line our way - who knows what kind of fish might be biting.

** ** *

FROM JERRY LOEWENBERG

The enclosed "surprise" card from Tom Carhart may contain a news item for your file. Tom won a national sculling championship.

He's a multi-talented guy: a sculling championship, a balloonster and, at least formerly, a P-38 pilot:

Dear Jerry,

The arrival of the 82nd Newsletter always jogs me as to how many nice people are still "out there".

Hope you and Pat are happy despite any physical ailments we all must face these days.

Re this card - I began a "Teddy Bear Rally" some ten years ago in our town. It has been quite successful - 25,000 people on the town (Tom lives in North Amherst, MA) common for one day only. We raise about \$25,000 for local charities.

I also won the National Championship Single Sculls for men over 70 - hence May's rendition.

Hope to defend my title in Austin, TX in September and I hope none of the Cornell people decide to compete against me. They are just too tough.

Just wanted to say "Hello, Jerry". Think nice thoughts and take good care of yourself and Pat.

** ** *

©1989
hand printed by M. Carhart

FROM GEORGE MARVIN

Am so pleased that Warne (Howard L. - 97th) was found and have mailed him a note. He was one of the better P-38 drivers when I was in the 97th.

Thought you would like the enclosed (a six page Instrument Flight Instruction Manual entitled "EXPOSURE SYSTEM") which was written by Jose Nauseo Vertigo - a famous AT-6 instructor.

(Ed's note: George, this is really a choice document - even though it begs a tot or two of discreet editing. If there's a ground swell from the troops advising me to print it in the Newsletter, I will - of course - comply. On the other hand, if it looks like everyone's going to sleep during the business meeting in Denver, I'll stand up and start reading "EXPOSURE SYSTEM")

** ** *

FROM FRED MONTGOMERY

Dear Ricardoo,

Darned if I don't miss the good old days when we fired guided missives back and forth with regularity and intensity

(continued on page ate)



(Monty is hearkening back to the days when we edited the 96th's Slugging Desert Jackrabbits). We shared lots of chuckles as well as a few tears. Now there is a great dearth of mirth, stimulus and challenge in the old correspondence game. Which is to say, "Why don't you rat some sparkly prose and aim it my way?"

(Ed's reply to the epitome of a good buddy - via special delivery: "Frederico, you are one heck of writer and editor and the level of excellence in those two categories is exceeded in quality only by the special brand of your friendly Id. The truth is, I would have more time to write crazy letters to you if you would take over the Mail Bag section of the 82nd Association Newsletter! If you do, I would strongly suggest you cut out the Ad Nauseum Ed's Notes! Nuff said!)

Fred continues:

Optimists, pessimists and ostriches, we must all face the fact that each reunion could be our last one; so, it behooves us to share the joys of comraderie and familial affection to the utmost! N'est-ce pas, mes cher amis?

** ** *

FROM TED PAPERMASTER

This is in reply to Martin Collis' question on page 8 of March 1991 Newsletter. He asks: "What ever happened to the 97th's Flight Surgeon?" I saw Carl Moore's obituary in the Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA) about 15 years ago. For more exact details one could write to JAMA. It's address could be obtained from your local hospital's medical librarian.

I agree Carl came from Bakersfield - and that item could help in identification.

What some of us have difficulty with is: who replaced Dr. Moore? Carl Moore was the first of the medical officers to be rotated back to the States - and I can even remember the date: 4-4-44 !!! Dr. Marvin Haw left later in the year and was replaced as Group Surgeon by Dr. Gerber. He, in turn, went home early in '45 and I became Group Surgeon -- just after all promotions had been frozen!

** ** *

FROM STANLEY F. PALCZEWSKI

I am writing you in response to your "Reunion" notice in the June Issue of "RETIREMENT LIFE" - the official magazine of the National Association of Retired Federal Employees.

I was a member of the 97th Squadron from 1942 to 1945 and I would like to join the 82nd Fighter Group Association. I will not be able to attend the Denver Reunion.

(Ed's note: Today is July 11 and Stan's note arrived today. Fortunately for all of us, the ad in "Retirement Life" was placed by Fidele Saccomano and it has yielded at least two new members)

** ** *

FROM MONTY POWERS

Margaret and I were at TYNDALL AFB for the time (March 1-3, '91) of the 95th Reunion - which was called off because of the Gulf War. However, we did visit the Base so Margaret had a chance to look around.

For your information Lt. Col. James Miller (Lt. Col. Rich White's replacement) is the present C.O. and he has plans for a big SILVER (50th) Anniversary Bonehead Reunion for the Spring of 1992 to celebrate the forming of the 95th. His man in charge of that celebration is Capt. Ben Cleveland.

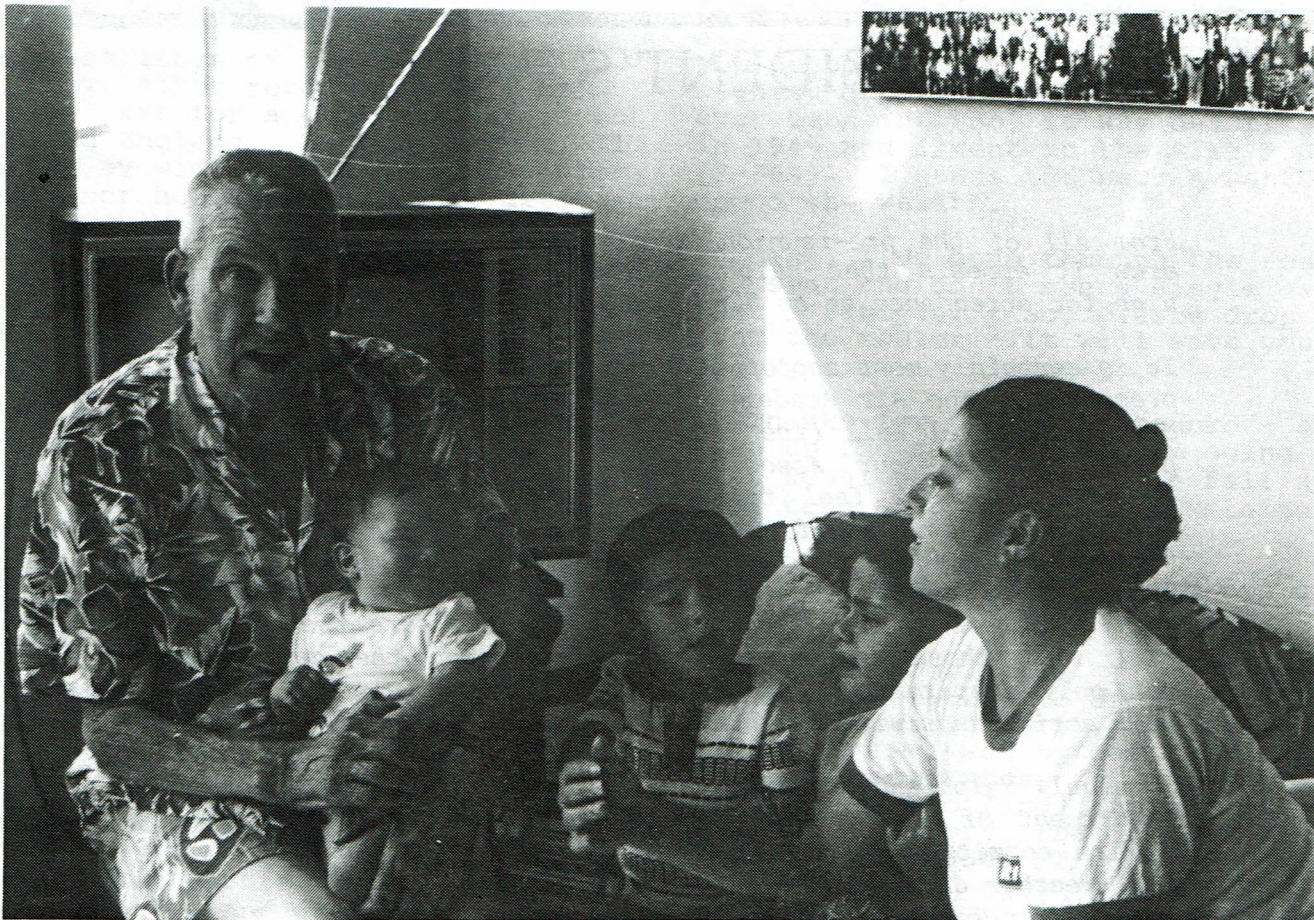
Our good buddy Dave Bryant has accepted an assignment to a NATO unit in Greece so is no longer with the 95th. He hopes, however, to return in time for the Denver Reunion and Bonehead 92!!!

Margaret and I were old chums in high school and have kept track of each other since. She was widowed about eight years ago and we now feel very fortunate to find ourselves in marriage and companionship. We recently completed a 7,000 mile auto ride through GA + FL + AL + LA + TX + CO + WY - just outstanding.

See you in Denver.

** ** *





FROM RUTHLESS

On April 6th I reached the big S E V E N O and I don't feel a bit different.

Enclosed find a foto which a friend took while no one was watching. It is one of the best natural pictures I have ever seen.

LEGEND FOR PICTURE

"Hey Gang. Look, it's a P-38"

- (1) Ruthless, AKA Gramps. Age not known. Is a veteran who pulled 2nd oar when George crossed the Delaware
- (2) Juan Carlos, #2 grandson and better known as YAN-KA. "Mami, what's a P-38?" Age: 17 mo.
- (3) (at far right) Daughter Mig-dalia, AKA Mam. "A P-38 was the fastest and best of all the aircraft in WWII, accord-to Ruthless."
- (4) Manuel Alexander, #1 grandson and at age four says, "The F-16 is the best plane ever made - there's no comparison." (Manuel in the middle)

- (5) Maria Estuardo (partly hidden) is my #1 grandchild. She said, (to Manuel) "Look bub, if gramps says the P-38 is the best, it is the best, so shadup!"

(Ed's note: Romeo Routhier's story is known by most of the 96th's guys as it was printed in "Slugging Desert Jackrabbit, #2". In short, he woke up one spring morning in 1943 in Berteaux, Algeria to find he couldn't move his legs. A succession of batteries of Doctors couldn't diagnose the problem and he eventually forced himself to learn to walk again with difficulty and crutches.

A New Hampshire and life-long bachelor, he moved to Guatemala City and became a successful business man. He adopted his maid's granddaughter when she was six and with the maid's help raised her. That is how Ruthless became a grandfather.

In the 82nd, we have a variety of heros)

** ** *

PRESIDENT'S PAGE

From all of the pre-reunion "hype" emanating from the Denver area it appears that Ralph is going to score a new record high for attendance at an 82nd Group Reunion.

It is certainly most appropriate for our Group to show a strong presence at the Air Academy for the dedication of our plaque on the Memorial Wall (the "Wall" having been financially supported through our Association's contribution last year). I can't help but feel that such dedication ceremonies, and the continuing show of interest by those of us in the Air Force who preceded the current Academy attendees, must encourage a great sense of pride and esprit de corps within the active members of the Air Force. I am also sure that we too will find those few special moments during the dedication not only inspirational but full of memories relating to our very active days with the 82nd.

As usual, Ralph and Meredith have arranged a great and flexible assortment of activities for us; and I understand they have a firm commitment from the local meteorologist for excellent fall weather during our visit.

Our dedicated Secretary-Treasurer, Roy Norris, has once again provided a Fiscal Year-end Financial Report which you will find elsewhere in this Newsletter. You will note that your Executive Committee has followed through with spending some of our reserves in support of 82nd Group and P-38 oriented projects; and also to assist in the building of the Jimmie Doolittle Memorial Hall at the Academy. Fortunately, our funds are still at a good level; which should ensure the continuation of our great Newsletter and miscellaneous other activities. Although dues are totally voluntary, contributions are most welcome at any time from all who are on the roster and who receive the Newsletter.

I have been in communication with Col. Kurt Anderson at Williams AFB in Arizona; and with Lt. Col. Jim Miller at Tyndall AFB in Florida. Each has enthusiastically assured me that they will have good representation at Denver - including Mr. Bones. We will once again honor outstanding Airmen and Officers from these two segments of the current "82nd".

Travel safely and we will see you all in Denver soon.

Will

FROM SOLIS J. (Jock) SCHUB

The last issue of the 82nd F.G. Assoc. Newsletter reaches me as I am about to leave for a prolonged visit to France and England. In the latter I'll be seeing my widowed sister-in-law near Oxford. Her husband, when they met, was a medic in a P-38 Fighter Group located in the area.

Most of my visit will be in France and Switzerland where I'll be the guest of members of Louise's family. You see, I got to know many of them in the late 1940s and early 50s when I met Louise while she and I (I on the G.I Bill) were students at the Sorbonne.

(the reason for giving you this agenda) is so you can see how deeply moved I was by your sensitive notes to my letter to the Hasenplaugs. I'm truly grateful.

All the best to you, your family and to all our comrades.

** ** *

FROM GEORGE W. SCOTT

I knew Bill Vantrease very well. He was a good pilot and a good officer (note: Bill's Obit was in Newsletter # 19, Nov. '91). He was also very quiet! To get him to talk I would say, "Van Van is a good man." I think he was from Tennessee.

(On one occasion) he was in the back seat of a T-33. A senior Col., who later became a general, was at the controls. They both tried to penetrate a thunderstorm - but failed. They both bailed out and received serious injuries from large hail stones. Photos of both pilots appeared in the "Flying Safety Book".

The Air Force lost a good troop. My condolences to his family.

** ** *

FROM JOSEPH T. THOMAS, USAF, Retired

You folks do a great job with your Newsletter and it's really heartwarming to see the comradeship evidenced therein.

Had I been born a few years sooner I might have been fortunate enough to have been a member of the 82nd during the BIG ONE. However, since I'm just a young (66) whippersnapper, I was sent to the Pacific for three years in P-47s and didn't join the 82nd (P-51s) at Grenier Field in N.H. until my return

from the Pacific in 1947. I was assigned to the 95th and it was a top-notch outfit then, too - with the highest experience level of any I have ever been in. So, it was deactivated in 1949 and I went to the 81st F.G. (F-86s). I guess the new AF wanted to spend the wealth.

Dick, I've gone through the roster you sent and don't see a single name that's familiar. So, please drop me from the roster - it will save you some postage.

Thanks for the short tenure - and keep up the good work. I'm going to an 81st Reunion in Hawaii this fall and will take a copy of your Newsletter to show off!

Again, congratulations to you and the Association.

(Ed's note: Sorry Joe. It takes almost an act of Congress to drop anyone's name from our roster. Such a request has to be reviewed by our Executive Committee (and those fellows are awfully hard to find), then the Emeritus Officers, The C.O. of the [active duty] 95th FTS, Tyndall AFB, Panama [and Pa] City, FL and finally, and this is a toughie, the President of the Ladies' Auxiliary.

Good luck, Joe.

-- RL)

** ** *

FROM LEE URECH

I'm enclosing the Christmas Card from Ginny Brooks family. I guess I took it for granted they had informed you of her death.

We are headed (April '91) for Hermann, MO to visit Gil Green and some of his family. Their eleven children are scattered all over the country.

On our way to Denver we plan to stop in Tucson to visit the John Buckles.

-- Lee

** ** *

TELEPHONE CALL FROM DICK WILLISIE

I heard there was to be video on the Discovery Channel called "Whispers In The Air" about B-17s flying out of England. I had to be away at the time so my wife taped it for me. When I got home she told me she thought she saw my picture in some of the footage. So I looked at it and sure enough it sure looked like me.

(continued on page 12)

Not only that but when I ran it through again the guy standing next to me looked like Charlie Pinson and in the third run-through I'm sure I spotted Al Campbell and Clarence Dolezal in the same picture.

Dick, I'm really excited about the memorials at the Air Force Academy that we'll be seeing during the 82nd Reunion in Denver. I'm sure we will all be proud of how the 82nd is represented.

** ** *

HO! DICK WILLSIE

Our heartiest congratulations to Dick Willsie on the occasion of his election to the Presidency of the P-38 National Association. We were hoping to do a dignified piece on the honor he has laid at the feet of the 82nd Fighter Group Association but our two daughters kept us running around on useless errands. See Dick, you got aced out by a couple of dingy dames.

More seriously, - when you're up to your ears in pitot tubes and can't get the tower - give us a call any time.

GOOD LUCK!

- RL

*** * * * ***

Speaking of luck, some fell at Jo Ann's my feet a week ago. We had a pleasant visit with Robert and Vysta Adams of the 95th Squadron and Killeen, Texas. Bob had stories.

The one I remember (imperfectly) was that he said he was a member of the advance cadre of the 82nd that debarked at Casablanca. From there the cadre, twenty-three strong, wended their way to Oran to find a scrabble of P-38s and some rag tag pilots - all belonging to the 82nd F.G.

Bob, a graduate of AME school at Sheppard Field found himself assigned to disorderly room duties. Suddenly guys were asking for money so Bob and his buddy searched through all the records but could find no payroll sheets. Inquiries were made to an EM Admin. type in an adjoining service unit and were told they didn't need their payroll sheets - all they needed was their little pay books. So they gathered up all the little books and took them back to the same Admin GI - except he was there and the Officer in charge said, "Oh, these pay books won't do - we need the payroll sheets!"

We won the War anyhow, Bob.

*** * * * ***

Life As The Filling in a DENVER SANDWICH

(Ed's note: During an evening call - pictures at 11 - I asked Ralph Embrey how the Reunion plans were going; and the following was his answer)

The response to the "Memorial Dedication Reunion" has been outstanding. At one point we had 190 members who said they planned to attend; but only 147 have given positive proof of their intentions by sending in a registration form with the money for the various functions in which they wish to participate. We have word from the Squadron Reps that a number more intend to come but - for some reason or other - have not yet notified us.

We have info from others that there are some folks who are planning to attend but who have yet to give us notice! We have heard from a few people who have had to cancel for health and other reasons and have been thoughtful in letting us know.

We are expecting over 300 to attend - including 30 active duty Officers and Airmen from Tyndall and Williams AFBs.

Our members should be aware of the amount of planning necessary to get things ready for a group of 300 people. The sooner we learn of your definite plans the smoother things will go for you when you get here.

Please understand! As we mature into our golden years it gets more difficult to complete those tasks that are necessary to have a successful meeting. You and I aren't getting any younger! So please help us help you by letting us know about your definite plans as soon as possible!

(So what's it going to be my friends, tuna fish, peanut butter & jelly or a Denver Club Deluxe?)

ST. LOUIS INFO IN
NOV. ISSUE
Think 92

Military secrets

by Ol' Dick

There are no secrets in our outfit anymore - Hoelzel told them all. But we had to give this piece some kind of name.

Do you know what? You weren't supposed to get a newsletter in August anymore. The Executive Board decided to limit the number of newsletters to two per year. Trouble is, so many things are happening among the membership that things begin to pile up so with this issue we are letting water out of the dam.

I love to hear from you and 95% of the non-business related letters that come into Boise are shared in the newsletter. Many of you have said you turn to the Mail Bag section first to see what your buddies have to say. You can guess it is the Editor's favorite department also.

As you know, I use the phone a lot and the Sec./Treas. has been very supportive. So many questions are solved in a few minutes that would take weeks to dig out.

I had a question for Olen Medley the other night and I needed an answer as soon as possible in order to get this letter to you before Christmas. The question was about Jules Hymel and Olen not only gave me some info about Jules but some other info as well. He said Lola Giertz, widow of Bob Giertz (96th), came to visit for a few days and then went with him and Betty to Comanche, Texas to visit the O'Briens. They stopped to see someone else too but I've lost my notes. The topper to all this is that Lola is deserting the 96th in favor of the 95th! How about that? This happens in families. Oops, found my note. Betty, Olen and Lola also stopped to see Herb & Jane Phillips (95th) in Stephenville, Texas.

Jo Ann and I received an invitation to attend the Bardwell's (Betty & Monty) Fiftieth Wedding Anniversary celebration in Lake Sunapee, New Hampshire. The happy event took place June 29th and Betty wanted all of you to come. That's really neat. Wow! 50 YEARS!

Those of you who attended the Queen Mary Reunion recall the visit of Stan Kupcinskis on the Old Lady was cut short by a mysterious health problem. The only thing the doctors agreed upon had something to do with his heart. Stan is doing fine now. His activities are limited - he can grow tomatoes and walk the dog but can't go to noisy reunions. He wears nitroglycerine patches on his chest and the drug moves inside by osmosis. He instructed us to say hello to all of you at the Denver Reunion.

Speaking about Denver. Poor old Ralph needs your bucks guys. We know some of you prefer to wait until the last minute but this works a hardship on the reunion host and makes it more difficult to float a program for you without a lot of glitches. So, take it from an old gambler - ANTE UP!

More aches and pains: Ted and Dorothy Latta won't make it to Denver this year per doctor's orders. For a while Ted thought he could make it but had to change plans. Dot's doc gave her a flat out NO. Bruce Ireland had some surgical work done on his food

(continued on page 14)

D. Andrews,
D. Hollinger, &
D. Willsie

AT THE P-38 ASSOCIATION
 MEETING IN APRIL OF 1991



PHOTO COURTESY OF DICK
 & SYLVIA OSTRONIK

*Andrews picked up Willsie
 in famous rescue
 in Europe where both rode back
 to Foggia in Andrews P-38.*

Three Famous 82nd Characters

(But none of us seem to remember what for)

processing machinery which was a success so we'll see that old
 rascal in Denver.

Jack Duncan has been fighting back problems but they're not bad
 enough to keep him in Schertz. We haven't had any reports of aches
 and pains from 95th or 97th guys - but we know they are out there.
 Please don't be bashful about reporting hurts and breakdowns of one
 sort or another. How can we all pull for you if you don't let us
 know. You need not go into great detail - a postcard will do.

I want to give Harley Vaughn proper credit for the picture on
 the cover. Harley originally identified the group as the 96th
 Orderly Room but Merv Christiansen corrected that. Merv said the
 HQ staff originally ate with the 95th until there was some sort of
 rhubarb and then they chowed down with the 96th and got along fine
 until we got to Foggia when Col. Wm P. Litton decided H.Q. would
 have its own mess.

We are welcoming three new members into our Association: Russ
 Bowen, 96th Pilot of Winterhaven, FL; Ed Chalupnik, 97th Armorer of
 Chino, CA; and Stanley F. Palczewski, 97th EM of Port Republic, MD.
 Russ located his tentmate, Alex Martin, and the two of them will
 travel to Denver together.

I got the word from someone that Charlie Charlton will be
 bringing Ginny to Denver this time. Twill be her only 82nd Reunion
 away from home! And wait till you hear this - as of this date
 (July 20) Jerry Loewenberg is bringing Pat!

Look, Good Buddies, this is your Newsletter. It should be the
 way you want it and if it isn't then it should be changed. It's as
 simple as that. You have Squadron and HQ reps - let them know of
 your gripes (I hope you haven't forgotten how to do that - "A
 gripin' soldier is a healthy soldier -- as long as you send him
 cookies! -- Snoopy).



prop w s s

by Fred Montgomery

On March 24 my fair lady and I were royalty for a day when we attended the 50th Anniversary celebration of Williams AFB as invited guests of the 82nd Flying Training Wing, our "little brothers".

About all we had to do was drive to the Base, and even that was expedited by a VIP card on our windshield that allowed us to bypass a mile-long line of traffic creeping toward the main gate. We parked in the Officer's Club parking lot, from where a shuttle bus took us to reserved seating on the flight line. We drank complimentary Pepsi on ice while we watched a spectacular airshow by the "Willy" pilots and climaxed by the incredible Thunderbirds' death-defying formation aerobatics.

Since we had toured the Base previously, we passed on that but certainly not the social hour at the Officer's Club. The entire day was a great demonstration of hospitality by the men and women of the 82nd FTW, whom we have honored at our Reunions.

We were joined at Willy by John and Raquel Buckles (96th) and Ted and Fleta Strong (97th) - all Tucson residents. We also saw John Kingsley (95th) from Phoenix; and I imagine there were other 82nd FGA members in the huge crowd.

What a great day! Thanks, 82nd FTW personnel.

Now for the bad news. "Willy" is on the Feds' hit list of Air Force facilities to be closed. We'll keep our fingers crossed.

FINANCIAL REPORT

FISCAL BALANCE JULY 1/90 - JUNE 30/91

SPECIAL NOTES

*DONATIONS:

ASSOCIATION GRADUATES./ALUMNI HOUSE	
US AIR FORCE ACADEMY	\$1,000.00
MEMORIAL WALL, US AIR FORCE ACADEMY	500.00
P-38 NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, MEMORIAL	
US AIR FORCE ACADEMY	500.00
82nd FIGHTER GROUP HISTORY	2,500.00
	<u>\$4,500.00</u>

*1 NEWSLETTER (3 ISSUES, AUG. DEC.90, MAR.91)	\$4,867.52
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*2 ROSTER	\$ 855.70
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PAID DUES - SUSTAINING	1991, 58
"	1992, 8
- LIFE	20

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED

Roy E. Norris
ROY E. NORRIS
SECRETARY/TREASURER



prop w s s

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