

# 82ND FIGHTER GROUP ASSOCIATION



## NEWSLETTER

NUMBER 23

MARCH 1992

### PROUD EXPERIENCES

The day was dark  
and the clouds hung low.  
The rain, though ended,  
like tears did flow.

Down the wooden path we went,  
my father and I,  
'til the statue of young soldiers  
caught our eye.

Beyond the statue  
stood a monument proud,  
scanned and searched by  
a thoughtful crowd.

Yards of stone stretched  
shiny and black,  
thousands of names  
it did not lack.

Each name stood for someone  
who risked his life,  
to preserve our freedom  
and save us from strife.

As I think about their efforts,  
their sacrifices, their toil,  
I'm proud of all who died  
on a foreign soil.

I held back my tears  
as I turned from the wall,  
and I would proudly serve my country  
if she ever were to call.

By Logan Ellis, age 12



## THE 82nd FIGHTER GROUP ASSOCIATION

### **The Executive Board**

#### Officers

#### **WILL HATTENDORF**

President

Sunset Drive, Route 6  
CANTON, GA 30114  
(404) 479-4043

#### **GEORGE MARVIN**

Vice President

P.O. Box 45  
SEDGWICK, ME 04676  
(207) 359-4472

#### **ROY E. NORRIS**

Secretary/Treasurer

6636 Plantation Way  
CINCINNATI, OH 45224  
(513) 931-2436

#### **HARLEY C. VAUGHN**

Past President

4702 Congressional Drive  
CORPUS CHRISTI, TX 78413  
(512) 854-3552  
• • •

#### Unit Representatives

#### **JERRY LOEWENBERG — HQ**

4917 Ravenswood Drive #1719  
SAN ANTONIO, TX 78227  
(512) 674-1555

#### **OLEN MEDLEY — 95th Squadron**

12001 Camelot Court  
OKLAHOMA CITY, OK 73120  
(405) 751-4929

#### **WALTER CARLSON — 96th Squadron**

Route 1, Box 33  
URBANA, IL 61801  
(217) 328-1894

#### **JACK DUNCAN — 97th Squadron**

309 Pecan Drive  
SCHERTZ, TX 78154  
(512) 658-6007

#### **1992 REUNION HOSTS**

#### **BETTE & CHARLIE PINSON**

8306 Eades Ave.  
ST. LOUIS, MO 63114  
(314) 423-2391

#### **ROSTER**

#### **RALPH C. EMBREY**

7865 E. Mississippi #1203  
DENVER, CO 86231

#### **NEWSLETTER EDITOR**

#### **DICK LINGENFELTER**

P.O. Box 5541  
BOISE, ID 83705  
(208) 344-7742

## *A Proud Grandfather*

I don't think many of us were thinking much about being even grandfathers back in the early forties - much less attaching any "Pride" to the process. All of the Pride we had was for our outfit, our families back home and our great country.

Over the years, though, as our children grew, matured and started building families of their own we began to swell with pride for them as well as around the middle.

As I look around me today I can't help but wonder about how much pride some grandfathers can have in some of the creepy raggety looking teen-age characters running around my town. I can't help saying to myself, "What is this country coming to?"

Then, in the mail one day I found the poem you have just read on the front page. It was sent in by a proud granddaddy and, later in this newsletter, he can tell you more about Logan.

How refreshing and reassuring it is for us to find some Logan Ellises around our communities and that, because of them - there is still hope for our great big melting-pot of a country. They will know, too, that this HOPE has been bought and paid for by precious lives in defense of this Wonderful Country.

Thank you Logan - and thank you, too,  
PROUD GRANDDADDY!

~r.l.



## THE PREXY'S PODIUM

Spring is trying hard to bust out in many areas of the country and almost before we know it - we'll meet Easter, the Fourth of July and Labor Day. Then comes the 82nd's big REUNION in St. Louis -- just fifty years from the time we were en route to the biggest experience in our young lives.

From all indications, Charley and Bette Pinson, and all their aggressive local committee members, have a great time lined up for us in St. Louis. With this '92 Reunion being so centrally located geographically it is hoped that our attendance will again reach a new high.

Discussions with our dedicated Sec./Treas., Roy Norris, revealed we are still acquiring new members. We look forward to having them join us in St. Louis so we can properly welcome them into the "family". I also encourage all those "First Timers" at the Denver Reunion in '91 to be sure to be back with us again this year.

I know many of you like to plan ahead for your Reunion trips so here is the latest on the location for '93: After considerable deliberation, **The Executive Committee agreed that Seattle will be our target in '93.** Chuck Luke and his committee put together a great "package" for our consideration and everything points to an interesting visit to a delightful part of our country. I'm sure we will get more of the details from Chuck during the St. Louis meeting.

I urge you to note elsewhere in this Newsletter the information regarding the 95th Squadron's "Bonehead" 50th Reunion at Tyndall AFB, Panama City, FL; May 1, 2 and 3, 1992. Col. Jim Miller has invited everyone in the 82nd F.G. Association and the Agenda is a interesting one. Hope to see you there.

Betty's health is gradually improving and, at this writing, she plans to join me in St. Louis this fall. We look forward to seeing you all then for sure.

Warmest Regards - Will

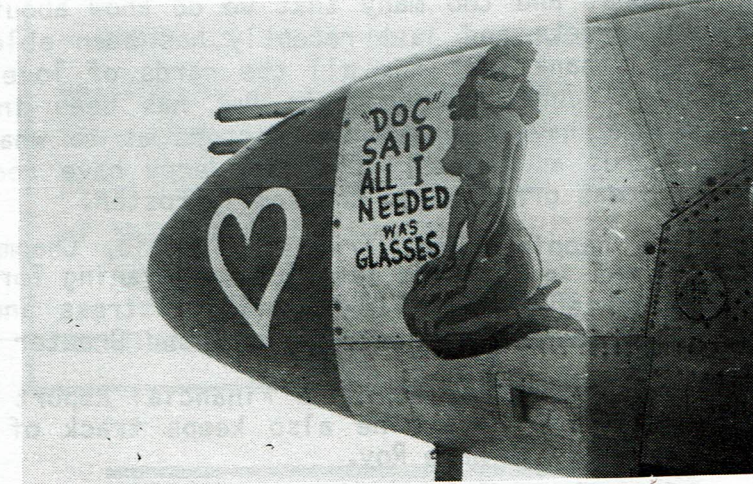
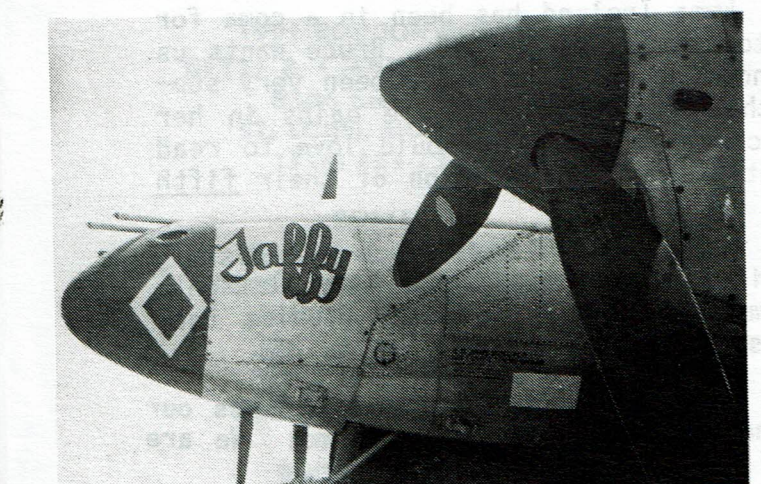
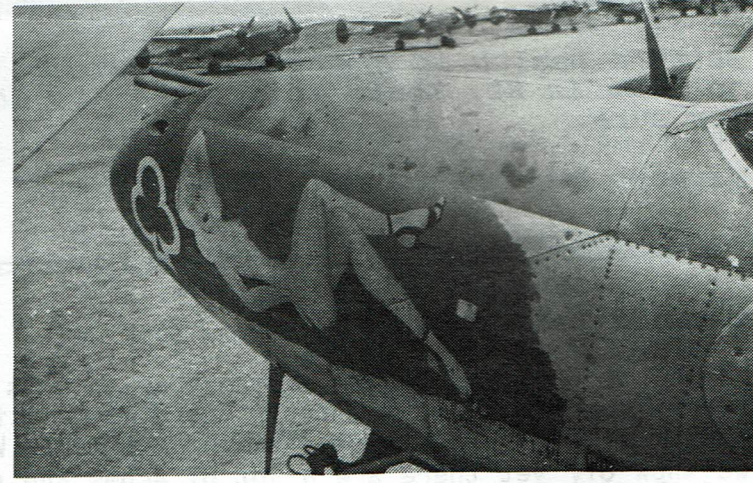
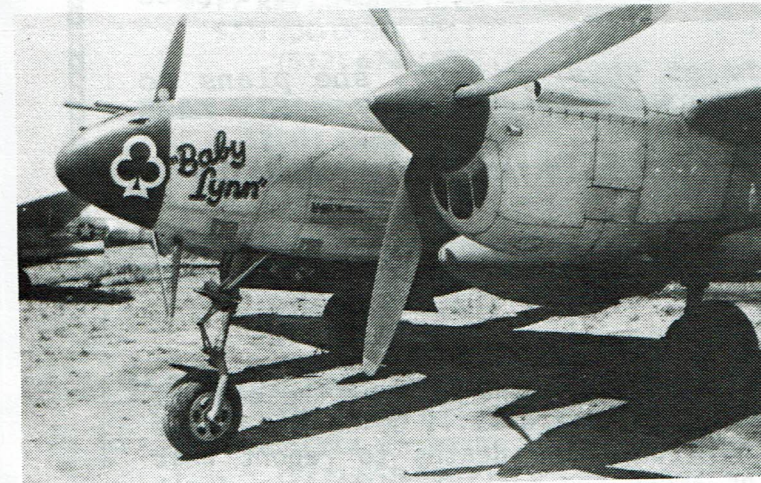
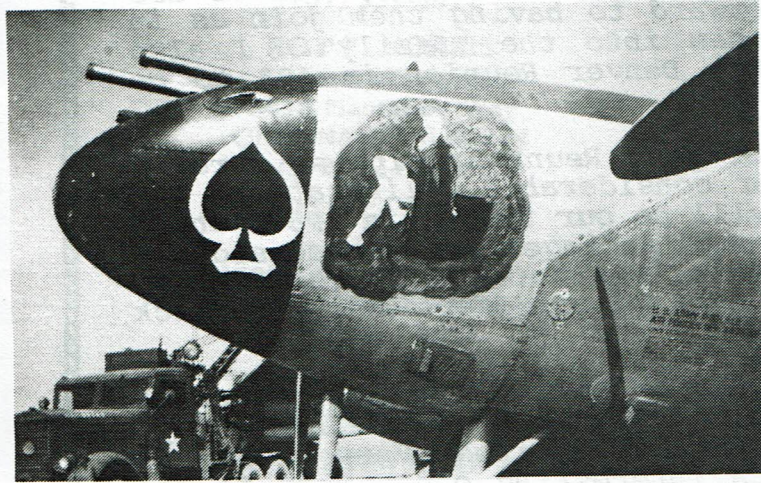
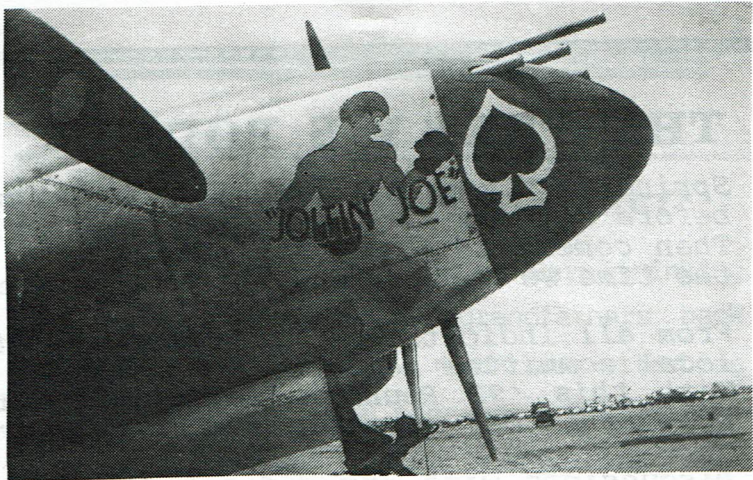
## Family Matters

The letters and calls, as reported in this Newsletter, set the tone of the general happy feeling that runs through the 82nd Association. Folks are still doing fun things here and there, i.e. the "Duckwitz Bash". We have only two deaths to report that we know of; yet there are a lot of aches and pains among the membership that we don't know about and too many that we do know about. Emma Ireland has been in a coma for over 17 weeks and just recently has been able to say "hello Bruce". Bruce wants us to say "Thank You" for all the cards of love and concern. They have been very supportive. Jerry Loewenberg's Pat has been in the hospital for severe pains in her legs that have stumped the doctors as to what causes them. She would love to read your cards and notes. She and Jerry have recently seen the addition of their fifth great great grandson to the family roster.

On a happier note, Francis "Chappie" Chapman (96th pilot & member of our History Board) was in our home last Tuesday evening for pizza and conversation. Very pleasant. Our daughter, Jane Allen (82nd seamstress and mother of our Universal Studios tour guide), recently completed her second Greater Los Angeles Marathon. She is 45!

Please read Roy Norris's Financial Report on page 14. Roy not only shepherds our Association's \$s but he also keeps track of the History's fiscal problems. We are really lucky to have Roy.







# Out Of The P.O. Box

(Ed's note: For me, this department of the Newsletter is like the main course of meal from a choice cuisine; it is the "piece de resistance" of Newsletter Editing.

Through the few months since the last missive that came your way all sorts of interesting epistles have found their way into good ol' Boise. I read them, enjoy them and then put them in my "Mail Bag" file. I've just pulled them all out again and have reread them, had a few chuckles, and then sorted them alphabetically.

In a sense I sort of feel like the old time party-line telephone operator who listens in on choice gossip while filing her nails and I hope I am passing on some of the same sort of feeling on to you folks out there.

If you feel I have left one or more of your letters (or telephone calls) out for no apparent reason, please let me know. Sometimes I sneeze in this little office and papers blow around. -- RL)

## FROM GEORGE BOWERS

Here is the picture I spoke to you about on the phone. This was the first time we were together since 1945 when we shared the same tent. The fourth tentmate, John Blumer, didn't make it - due to poor health. We expect to meet again in May at Tyndall AFB and again in St. Louis.

The picture was made at John Duckwitz' house in Madison, Wisconsin. We went to the Oshkosh Air Show together.

\* \*\* \*\*\*

### DUCKWITZ 95th BASH

from left  
John Duckwitz  
Bill Hayduk  
Geo. Bowers  
in  
MADISON  
WISC.

\* \*\*\* \*



## FROM JOHN BUCKLES (Via Ma Bell)

(Ed's note: I guess I should have a tape recorder hooked up to my phone because I sure get some interesting calls. I think John's call was prompted by John DePhillip's letter in the Nov. '91 newsletter. John called to tell me that he, too, had an 82nd History that covered the post war years at Grenier AFB, Manchester, New Hampshire. John said, "I was group Sgt/Major, Roscoe Curry was 96th Line Chief and Walter Heck was in one of the squadrons."

Four or five years ago John Allen (96th crew chief) sent me a copy of the program for the 1939 Christmas Party at Selfridge Field. Looking at the list of Privates invited I caught not only Allen's name but also Walter Heck's (I can't imagine these two ever being privates!). Then, I found Buckles' name among the Corporals and Curry's name among the S/Sgts.)

\* \*\*\* \*

## FROM AL DEFORGE

Monsignor Philip Kearney, Group Catholic Chaplain 1944/45 is in the hospital recovering from a hip operation. Get well cards and notes can be mailed to: 135 Neponset Ave., DORCHESTER, MA 02122.

Chaplain Kearney sends his best wishes to all of you.

\* \*\* \*\*\*



FROM CHARLIE FALUDI

(Ed's Note: Charlie was a member of the Hungarian Air Force pilot corps that flew for the Krauts and figured in 82nd statistics. He is now a U.S. Citizen. He is a member of The Hungarian Old Pilots Association which is holding a worldwide reunion in September in Budapest)

Deek,

I hope you can put this in your newsletter. Our Association will pay for hotel, food, travel, etc. for the first 24 pilots/aces who can make reservations with us in March. (You have to get to Budapest on your own)

For more information call Charlie at (619) 728-5684 or write to him at 2066 E. Alvarado St. Fallbrook, CA 92028.

\* \*\* \*\*\*

FROM ROS & LIL HARDING

I have finished my radiation treatments (38!) and the Doc says all looks good.

We have moved from Cocoa Beach to Melbourne, Florida - just 18 miles south. See you in St. Louis.

\* \*\* \*\*\*

**Edmund B. Anderson**

Edmund B. "Ted" Anderson, 71, died Saturday at Memorial Medical Center.

Retired from the U.S. Air Force after 22 years of service and a veteran of World War II and the Korean War, he received the Distinguished Flying Cross and Air Medal with 13 oak leaf clusters. He was a former employee of Benedictine Military School, a past president of Clan Anderson Society Ltd., a former Scout master for Troop 16 at Blessed Sacrament Church, and a member of St. James Catholic Church.

Surviving are his wife, Mrs. Nadine W. Anderson of Savannah; five daughters, Ms. Maris A. Engle of Charlotte, N.C., Mrs. Nadine A. Krutulis of Richboro, Pa., Ms. Laurie A. Nichols of Orange Park, Fla., Ms. Paula A. Hinds of Lawrenceville and Ms. Maggie A. Shafer of Savannah; a son, Edmund B. Anderson Jr. of Washington, D.C.; a sister, Ms. Doris Stone of Arcadia, Calif.; a brother, H. John Anderson of Azusa, Calif.; 11 grandchildren, several nieces, and nephews.

Vigil service: 7 p.m. Monday at St. James Catholic Church.

Funeral: 1 p.m. Tuesday at St. James, burial in the Catholic Cemetery.

Remembrances: St. James Building Fund or Benedictine Military School.

Fox and Weeks Funeral Home, Hodgson Chapel.

FROM ROBERT HARRINGTON

I just received this from Anderson's daughter, Maggie Shafer. Ted was a pilot in the 96th and I have visited him a time or two. His widow's name is Nadine. The clip is from the "Savannah News", Nov. 17, 1991.

\* \*\* \*\*\*

FROM JOHN HELLER (to Roy Norris)

After reading and enjoying my November Newsletter I realized I hadn't paid any dues since '89. Would you please drop me a line and let me know where to send my check and the amount to bring me up to date. I would appreciate you doing this for me.

(Ed's note: In all probability Roy has written to John and has not only given him the information he asked for but has also told him about his grandkids, given him Proctor and Gamble's 1991 earnings and told him where Jo Ann gets her hair done.

Roy told me recently that only about 50 of our members have sent in their 1992 dues. At this rate it will be very difficult for the Association to keep the Newsletter Editor solvent.

Here's a suggestion on how to pay your voluntary 82nd Association dues of \$15 per Annum. First, put on your work duds and go outside to your garden and plant some pansies then come back in and write a check to Roy - make it \$20 for old time's sake. Then change into your "Sunday Go To Meetin' Threads" and go downtown and give your Mayor what for. When you get back home you will feel so good you will sit right down and write another check for Roy. Finally, call your travel agent and arrange to take your bride to Epcot or Maui and when you get back she'll sit down and write a check to Roy.

See how much fun it is to keep the 82nd Fighter Group Association afloat? Oh, John, you better not wear your name tag when you come to a Reunion.

Another Hint: Roy's address is 6636 Plantation Way, CINCINNATI, OH 45224)

\* \*\* \*\*\*



FROM BOB HILDEBRANDT

Emanuel Was His Name

Manny Roth was the 95th's Flight Surgeon while I was with the Squadron. He was from Brooklyn or some other part of New York where they talk funny. On occasion he could be seen twirling his dog tags around his finger while leaning against a building, one leg crossed over the other. Probably the result of hanging around the coke shop in his youth.

There was a time when we were given a two-day trip to Rome and, as a joke, one of our pilots came back with six "pro slips" - receipts for having been administered a prophylactic after being exposed to sex. Manny responded with a few words suggesting the pilot was deficient in manhood and had brought shame on the squadron!

All in all, he was a pleasant person and nice to be around. What I liked best about him was that he signed the papers that sent me back to the Zone of Interior after I completed fifty missions.

\* \*\* \*\*\*

FROM STUMPY HOLLINGER (Phone call)

Hey Dick, I just read in the LA Times that the 57th Bomb Wing Association is having a Mini-Reunion in St. George, Utah in March. Isn't that your old outfit?

*(Ed's note: It sure is. But how do you like these apples? Here's a good example of how things work in the 82nd family - with our many members looking out for each other. Thanks, Stumpy)*

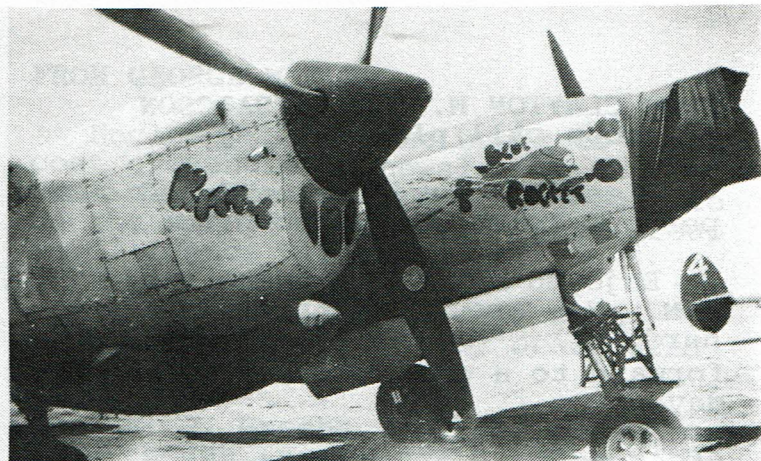
\* \*\* \*\*\*

FROM CHARLIE HORNE (to Roy Norris)

Received the November Newsletter and was most impressed. When I picked it up at the P.O. I wondered why 98 cents postage - but, after reading it, found out t'was worth it.

Saw two members of the 97th Radio Section, Monson & Zucal, whom I hadn't seen for 46 years.

\* \*\* \*\*\*



FROM MRS. MADELYN HOUSTON (to Roy N.)

First, I wish to thank you for your inquiry about "Sam". "Sam" was a name given to Harold early in his military career.

Sam was fine on Feb. 27, '91 when I had to leave for a meeting. At the meeting I received a call from the emergency room at the hospital. Instead of calling 911 when he began to feel pains he drove himself to the emergency room.

When I got to the emergency room the nurse told me Sam was just not responding and he told me, "I'm just not going to make it this time." He told the people at the emergency room he had been having angina pains for the past week - he had said nothing to me.

Sam never wanted to face the ravages of old age and he didn't want to live on as an invalid. He vowed he would never go through heart surgery. He had a second career after leaving the service (because of his heart) and worked for many years as a Hospital Administrator. I think sometimes he saw too much.

Sam died at noon on the 28th.

It was devastating for us to lose him and we all miss him very much. No one can ever replace him in our lives. Sam left two sons, Michael 48 and John 32, and two grandchildren.

Sam & I attended two 82nd Reunions - the last being in Asheville. Just sorry we didn't get to more. Appreciate being on the Honorary list and, who knows, I may even bring a member of my family to a future reunion.

\* \*\* \*\*\*



**FROM CLAYTON M. "Ike" ISAACSON**  
(A phone call plus a note)

Please forward the enclosed check per our Telecon this morning.

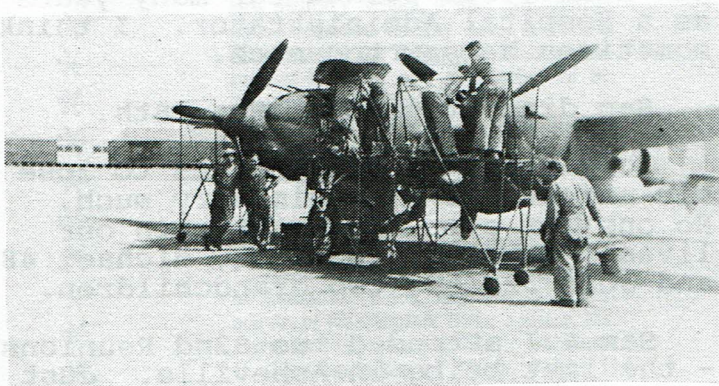
Enjoyed our short phone visit this A.M. You are, by dint of long and hard work, "Mr. 82nd". I am looking forward to a good visit with you some day.

(Ed's note: I appreciate Ike's accolade but the success and vitality of the 82nd Association is due to two principal ingredients - 1) The initial vision and direction of a small group that got the Association on track including, but not exclusively, **Harley Vaughn, Jerry Loewenberg, Wayne Jorda. Ralph Embrey and Jack Duncan**; and 2) The strong sense of teamwork that pervades the organization both within and among the squadrons. Someone is always there to do a job.

Ike said he wished he could go to both of the upcoming meetings - The National P-38 Association Meeting in Colorado Springs and the 82nd FG Association Reunion in St. Louis, "Both being run by two of my best pilots, **Dick Willsie and Charlie Pinson**, when I was 96th C.O."

Ike said a crippling back condition keeps him confined to a wheelchair most of the time and does not permit going to reunions)

\* \*\* \*\*\*



ARMORERS & PROP MEN AT WORK  
IN GLENDALE

(Photo courtesy of Jack Richardson)

**FROM HAYWARD JENKINS (to R. Embrey)**

I found a clipping in a magazine about the 82nd Fighter Group and was wondering if there are reunions. I was a member of the 95th Squadron from April of '44 until the war was over. In fact, I helped tear down all the buildings after the war.

I retired from the Air Force in 1960 and would love to hear from you.

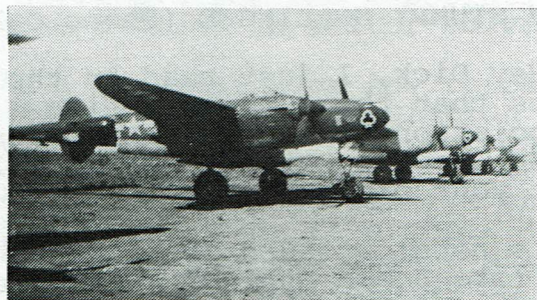
\* \*\* \*\*\*

**FROM CHARLES (Josh) JOSLIN (Phone)**

(Ed's note: Josh called to say that **Jesse (Blackie) Oliver** (95th pilot) brought the November issue of the Newsletter around to him. He said Blackie lives in nearby San Lorenzo, New Mexico and thought he'd be interested in the special issue.

Josh said he'd thought the 82nd Association had dried up and blown away because after the 1st Denver Reunion he never heard another word. Come to find out, for some reason he'd been dropped from the roster. Josh said he worked for many years as a crop duster)

\* \*\* \*\*\*



**FROM JOHN KOSTYO**

(Ed's note: I get a lot of letters from John. He is an excellent letter writer but he has one problem - he is in love with AMTRACK and a lot of his letters are filled with all the trips he and Sarah have taken all over the U.S. going to and from 82nd Reunions and/or visiting their kids. He's got it all figured out - it'll cost him .063 cents a mile to go to St. Louis and back from Munster. Just kidding, John.

John has another bad ailment - he is also in love with the 82nd FG Association so his letters are filled



with the happiness and joys as well as the aches and pains of his WWII comrades and their wives. In his last letter he tells of the excitement **Ted Kaufman** (96th) is getting out of a new hobby - that of building 1/8th inch to a foot scale models of homes. They fit in the palm of your hand.

Sarah gave him a video called "P-38 Lightning, a Personal History". He said one pilot from each of WWII combat theaters talks about his experiences with the P-38. One of them is about the 82nd Group with **Dick Willsie** doing the narrating.

John said he bats the breeze at lunch every day and he ran into a Navy pilot who "praises the P-38 to high heaven". One day his outfit was getting 'what for' when lo and behold - out of nowhere - a flight of P-38s came to their rescue.

Thanks John, for keeping in touch)

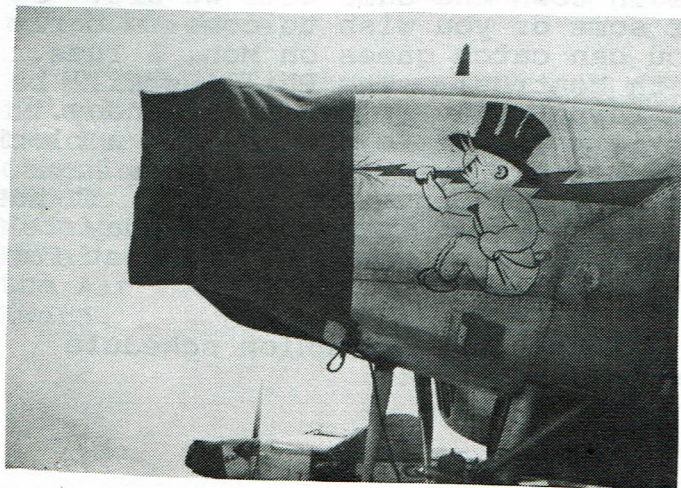
\* \*\* \*\*\*

**FROM LAURIE LAWRENCE** (By Phone)  
Production Department, Walsworth  
Press Co., Inc., Marceline, MO

Are you Dick? "Yes'm" Good! This call is to inform you that we have received 21 chapters of the 82nd FG History from Steve Blake and we are ready to get to work on them as soon as we receive a down payment. We also have all the pictures selected by Mr. Blake plus the picture captions.

(Ed's note: How about them potatoes - all you guys and gals?)

\* \*\* \*\*\*



**FROM GEORGE MARVIN**

Enclosed find some bucks to cover cost of sending a newsletter to Gov. Weld of Massachusetts who happens to be the son of **David Weld** (82nd Group Intelligence Officer).

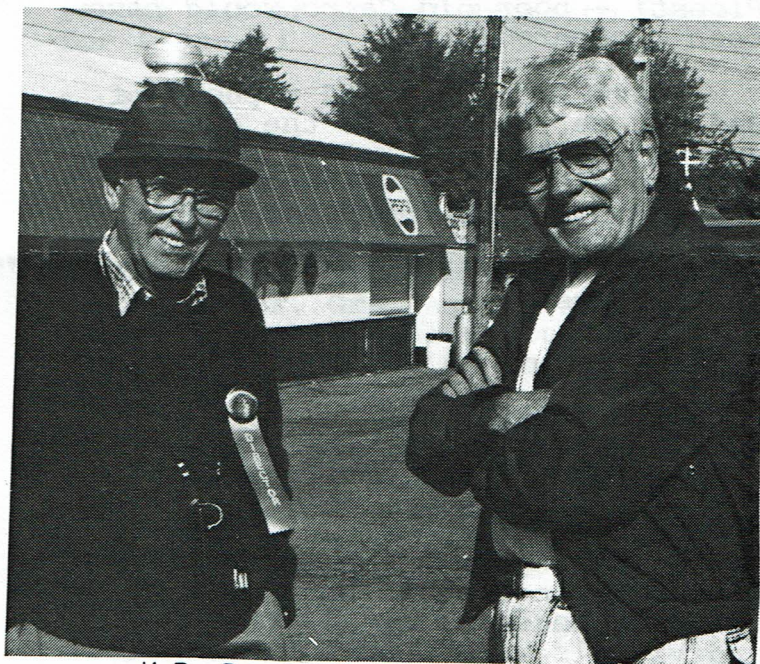
(Ed's note: We had already been instructed to do this by other 82nd moguls)

**Paul J. Greene**, (former 97th C.O.) drove south (from Sequim, WA) to Vancouver, WA to have lunch with me, my daughter and son-in-law on Oct. 20. A very nice time.

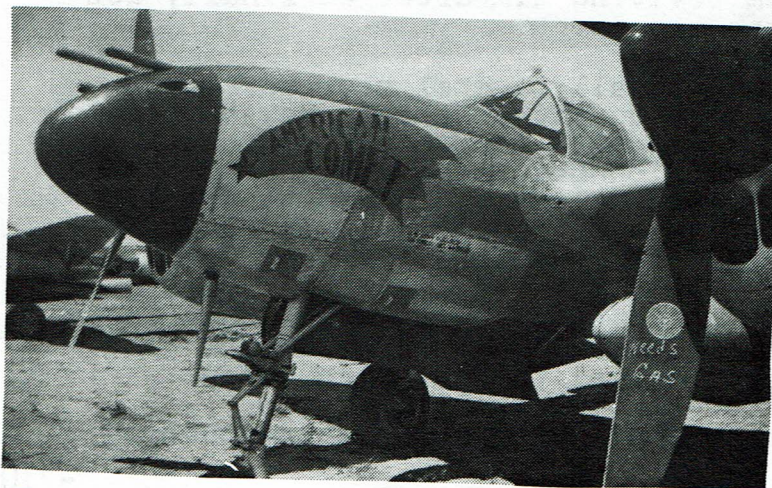
I'm wishing time will hurry the completion of our History.

Stay warm.

\* \*\* \*\*\*



V.P. George Marvin and former 97th C.O. Paul J. Greene in Vancouver, Washington





FROM TERRY OBERMILLER  
(Writing from the 82nd FTW HQ)

My apologies for not writing sooner but I've been extremely busy trying to wind up my affairs here prior to Candy's and my departure for 15 months of Attache/Language/C-12 training in D.C. for an eventual assignment to Bolivia in June '93.

I received the 82nd N.L. and will give Airman Anderson the photos you enclosed. I am returning one, however, as the individual is not Capt. Ehrenstein but the officer who was the 95th winner (I believe Joe Accardo). The photo of Anderson and Ehrenstein shown on page 29 is really (Accardo?) and Anderson and the photo on page 34 is Gabe Ehrenstein and not Accardo. You may wish to mention these errors in your next newsletter. (Ed's note: I also may NOT want to. Good Gadsfrey - if I had been leading my flight of Links to Ploesti - poor old Cairo would have been clobbered!)

I have also enclosed a photo of Dad and me that one of the guys took during the Reunion. I enjoyed the Reunion and our time together tremendously. I recommend you send future newsletters to my boss, Col Terry D. Marshall, 82nd OPG/CC here at Williams.

\* \*\* \*\*\*

#### FROM TED PAPERMASTER

First, a little contribution for Ol' Dick's Folly.

Second, the reading of the newsletter again brought back so many poignant memories of all the individuals with whom I had contact. I remember Major Weld - the ranking Officer on base when a GI fell down a well and we medics were unsuccessful in reviving him after we finally got the man up.

I recall several stories about Col. Legg and also Col. Edwinston. Undoubtedly, some of the juiciest and attention getting stories came out of the medical sections of the Group. I'm sure we could at least equal - if not outdo - "Catch 22". But, of course, the best exploits should never be published because they would contain material that might be detrimental to otherwise happy households. Still, a semi-fictional novel, with names changed



At Lecce - a burning P-38 from which Max Pelletier rescued the pilot. Photo courtesy of Charlie Horne

to protect the unsophisticated, could be a best seller.

I remember the time we captured 12 prostitutes near Foggia 11 (Ed's note: The "Heller" you say!) - whoops! See what I mean? I did not get the DFC for that caper.

Finally, thanks to Joe Gerber for his letter in the Nov. Newsletter.

(Ed's note: I have a little scribble on a piece of paper here that says Dr. Bonham was 97th Squadron Flight Surgeon)

\* \*\* \*\*\*

#### FROM BETTE & CHARLEY PINSON

After a cool winter here in Florida Bette and I are off to Maui for a month with some friends. We will be back in St. Louie Mar. 4.

We have not yet signed any contracts because we have been waiting for '92 prices.

One thing we can tell the troops and that is that the Cardinals will be in town the same time we are. So if some of you wish to come in early you can catch games on Mon. & Tues. with Montreal. The Phillies will be in town Friday, Saturday & Sunday. It is possible to arrange for a block of seats for a group but plans have to be made soon after Mar. 9. It has been suggested that the Saturday afternoon game would be the best for our Group.

Right now our Reunion schedule looks like this:



- Wednesday - Registration and Tour Sign-Ups
- Thursday - Late Registration  
Golf starting at 10 AM  
Cocktail Party 5 to 7
- Friday - Lunch at LaCledes  
Landing followed by  
River Boat Cruise  
Cocktail Party 5 to 7
- Saturday - Business Meeting 10 AM  
Banquet 7 PM
- Sunday - Brunch 7 to 10

We haven't yet decided on a Thursday event for everyone. There is so much to do and see in downtown St. Louis and we think that after the Cocktail Parties on Thursday and Friday that folks would want to buddy up for dinner at their favorite restaurant.

Please take some time with the Statement of Interest Form and send it to us.

\* \*\* \*\*\*

#### FROM JOSEPH PUETZ

I see you still have the Newsletter job. They are always enjoyable.

We have been looking for Henry Eckert for over ten years so we could get him to come to our reunions. Rex Ortmann saw his name in the Retired Sergeants Newsletter so I contacted his widow, Grayce. Henry died of pneumonia Feb. 17, 1991 at age 74. He and Grayce had no children.

Henry was a crew chief in the 96th. He was one true friend and was liked by all.

He retired in '62 and in addition to all the WWII ribbons he also wore the European African Middle Eastern Campaign Medal, the Korean Service Medal, the United Nations Service Medal, the National Defense Service Medal, the American Campaign Medal & the Air Force Longevity Service Award.

Henry served (as a Master Sgt.) in Alaska, Japan, Edwards AFB (7 years) and finally, Wright-Patterson AFB.

(Ed's note: We printed Henry's obit in the August '91 Newsletter. Fred Graham having also seen the same announcement. Thanks, Joe, for the additional info.)

\* \*\* \*\*\*

#### FROM JACK RICHARDSON

Thanks for the info on the book.

The enclosed photos are of 97th "Nose Art" from Foggia - near the end of hostilities.

Hope to make a Reunion some day.

(Ed's note: Jack calls himself "A former 97th welder - everything from stoves out of 50 gal drums to parts for P-38s.")

\* \*\* \*\*\*

#### FROM ED & PHYL SCOTT (to Roy N.)

I can't believe I'm doing this after watching the evangelistic scam on "20 - 20" last night. I guess the ole 82nd Ftr. Grp. Assoc. has me in its spell - especially you guys in the front line that do so much for so little.

It's like a shot in the arm every time I get R.L.'s Newsletter. We read them from cover to cover and keep them in our scrap book. We are so glad to be part of the Association.

\* \*\* \*\*\*





FROM JOE SOLKO (95th pilot)

(Ed's note: Joe is answering my request for information)

Your up-date on the History was forwarded to me in Florida. We are near Sarasota and have had cold nights and cool days for the past three weeks.

I was on the mission when we lost Lee Ragland (and I believe two other pilots). It was a biggee and I remember it well. However, I can tell you that I did not see or even hear from anyone on the mission as to how Lee was lost.

It seems to me I gave Steve Blake a pretty good run-down on some of the missions, together with pictures of Sad Sack - which I flew on about eight missions.

Let me know if you still want the mission details about Ragland. I'll be home in March and will write to you then.

(Ed's note: As many of you know already, Lee and I were buddies at the Univ. of Idaho. I'm editing a newsletter for our dormitory association and I think my dorm mates would welcome any info I can supply them. So, Joe and any other 95th folks that can recall anything about Lee would be much appreciated. Lee flew AT)

\* \*\* \*\*\*

FROM C.W. "Cy" STRAIN

(Ed's note: C.W. is the President of the 31st Fighter Officers Association. I cannot remember who the heck sent this to me but since it might have been from somebody important and I'm always careful about my neck - here it is in case any of you were in the 31st or wanted to be):

Officers of the 31st Tac Ftr. Wg./Gp. from 1940-1991 will hold a Reunion on Apr. 30 - May 2, 1992 at the Fort Magruder Inn, Williamsburg, VA. Contact C.W. "Cy" Strain, 30 Beards Creek Circle, Chapin, SC 29036, Ph (803) 781-0363.

\* \*\* \*\*\*

FROM MILLARD STROOPE (to Roy Norris)

Got the newsletter today - Wow - what a fantastic job!!! Dick just keeps getting better and better.

One of these days I'm gonna sneak away from the V.A. and make a Reunion - if only to hear a war story and talk P-38. As they said in Journalism School - "Long enough to cover the subject and short enough to be interesting."

My best to all and Happy Landings Always.

\* \*\* \*\*\*

FROM DAVE SUDDETH

Got your note asking if I was going to attend the St. Louis Reunion. I plan to go but have lost the forms to mail in. Could you please send the information again?

\* \*\* \*\*\*

FROM WARREN THOMPSON

As I mentioned to you on the phone I have been a military aviation historian and writer for 25+ years. I write for aviation magazines in Japan, Malaysia, England and France and I am contributing to **Air Power** and **Wings** magazines here in the States.

If I could find some good color pictures I would like to do a couple of articles on the 82nd F.G. Several magazines would be interested.

Also, please let me know how to get in touch with the person taking orders for the 82nd History. Thanks for the help.

(Ed's note: Generally we don't have the space to give to the many bonafide requests for this and that. I "round file" most of the stuff that comes in to shield you guys from being pestered. However, Warren was referred to me by one of our honchos and besides, anyone who wants to write about the 82nd Fighter Group can't be all bad. Right?

7201 Stamford Cove, Germantown, TN  
38138 Ph (901) 754-182  
Let him know if you have anything)

\* \*\* \*\*\*



FROM CLAYTON TILLAPAUGH (Feb. 14th)

Happy Valentine's Day!! I bought a big box of delicious candy for you; but I couldn't get into the envelope so I ate it!! It was dee - licious!!

I have a suggestion I'd like you to "run up the flag pole and see who salutes it": A RIVERBOAT RIDE ???!! A day's trip, overnight, down the river - we can roll out our sleeping bags on the levee and then paddle back the next day.

My old (oops, strike that word) erstwhile roommate in Primary, Thomas Gray (97th) would go for this, I think. We could sail right past Helena, AR where our training took place in the spring of '42. By putting this in the Newsletter maybe enough people would stand up to be counted so Charley could make the plans. Or maybe just a raft if there were only a few who just wanted to play Huckleberry Finn.

Another suggestion for the NL: mention something about the 82nd when it was in Africa. All I can see are references to Glendale and Foggia. The first time I ever heard of Foggia was when we hit it with a full group strafing raid. My entire tenure with the 82nd was in Africa when probably the majority of pilots were lost. Rough times. I remember sweating out the extremely poor visibility out over the Mediterranean more than the actual mission. Navigation was difficult, especially when coming back on single engine. I lost an engine at 11,000 ft. over the Bay of Bizerte and couldn't keep up with the squadron in the fight - so I hit the deck and headed home - alone. No one escorted me per the #1 rule of the Squadron. Then Harley called me into his tent and bawled me out for "leaving the Squadron"!!

When we were at Souk-el-Arba, it was so hot I got blisters on my arm when I rested it on the window rail. And D U S T -- a pilot almost had to taxi out to the runway on instruments. We could have used the "Blue & Yellow" jobbie, not having had any Link time in nearly a year. Back at Berteaux near Constantine in Algeria, we had cold and damp weather. We burned 100 octane gas in home-made stoves (which blew up occasionally). I remember the guys in one tent

throwing things out that were on fire. I also remember three veteran pilots throwing the fourth cot out of their tent after having three tent mates in three weeks shot down. They figured that corner of the tent was jinxed plus they were tired of packing up the belongings for shipment to parents.

I called Days Inn in St. Louis & got a confirmation number for a room. After a couple of weeks I called back and asked if I wasn't supposed to pay in advance and they said, "Yes, \$62." Reunion hotels in other cities have sent brochures about all the perks they had - but I've received nothing from St. Louis' Days Inn.

Well, I'd better get this in the mail as it's now Feb. 22. I got sidetracked and Bev caught the flu.

See you in St. Louis.

(Ed's note: Tilly, I don't write stories about Glendale, Africa or even Foggia. All I do is write Ed's notes and bad jokes and that keeps me busy. I'm sure Charley will take your advice about moonlighting on the levee and playing Huck Finn. Charley's a nice man and wants to make everyone happy)

\* \*\* \*\*\*

#### FROM AMOS TURNER

Enclosed is the poem I mentioned to you on the phone. It was written by my grandson after he visited the Vietnam War Memorial with his Daddy who had fought in Vietnam.

Logan is now fifteen and is ranked in the top 1% nationwide by the testing programs.

I enjoyed our chat on the phone and will send some \$\$ to Roy for the Newsletter.

(Ed's note: I know now, along with all you other grandpas and grandmas out there, that I am just as proud of Logan as if he were my own)

\* \*\* \*\*\*

The new "Back Page" format was suggested by Ted Latta, 96th Crew Chief and erstwhile P-38 Bombardier.



FROM DICK WILLISIE (Phone call)

(Ed's note: There's more than just a modicum of Ma Bell type traffic between Huntington Beach and Boise - especially since Dick took over the reins of the National P-38 Association and we're always glad to be of assistance. On this particular occasion he wanted me to send our latest Newsletter to Jack Ilfrey who is not only on the P-38 Association Board but is also the Newsletter Editor for the 20th Fighter Group (8th AF). The name of the 20th's N.L. is "KING'S CLIFFE Remembered" and it is an excellent publication. Jack was also either the first or one of the first Aces of the Mediterranean Theater. He was in the 1st F.G.

We also swap newsletters with the 1st F.G., the 14th F.G. and the 57th Bomb Wing Association)

\* \*\* \*\*\*

(Ed's note: I am also very proud of the following letter)

FROM WALT ZURNEY

I am sure I will not make any points with you or the members of the 82nd History, Inc. with what I have to say.

To start with I think Steve's biggest problem is that instead of being able to do what he can do best, and with a free hand, he spends too much time writing letters or making phone calls to you and members of your group. Instead of this being a history by Steve Blake it has become a history by committee. Let's stop all the proof-reading, suggested changes, and approval or disapproval on this or that. In other words, get off the man's back and stop telling him what to do and when to do it.

I'm sure you guys mean well but I'm afraid it has led to a lot of wasted time for Steve.

(Ed's note: We printed Walt's letter because we appreciated his honesty and also, in part, because we agreed with him. We always stand open to constructive criticism. Thanks Walt)

\* \*\* \*\*\*

## Financial Report

OCT-NOV-DEC 1991

### BEGINNING BALANCE

CERTIFICATE DEPOSIT	\$18,293.93
CHECKING 57-000842	699.10
SAVINGS 53-001948	2,751.53
TOTAL BEGINNING NET WORTH	\$21,744.56

### INCOME

DONATIONS	\$ 401.00
DUES - LIFE	25.00
- SUSTAINING	820.00
INTEREST	351.89
REUNION 1991	3,611.76
TOTAL INCOME	\$ 5,209.65

### EXPENDITURES

ENVELOPES	\$ 99.36
MISCELLANEOUS	189.69
OFFICE SUPPLIES	30.53
PHOTOCOPYING	430.40
POSTAGE	804.83
PRINTING	1,242.47
REUNION 1991	389.45
REUNION 1992	1,000.00
STATIONARY	26.90
TELEPHONE	154.64
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$ 4,368.27

### ENDING BALANCE

CERTIFICATE DEPOSIT	\$18,602.93
CHECKING 57-000842	241.52
SAVINGS 53-001948	3,741.49
TOTAL NET WORTH	\$22,585.94

DUES PAID: 318 TOTAL MEMBERS

161 LIFE

104 1991

46 1992

7 1993

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

*Ray E. Morris*

## NOSE ART

Jack Richardson, 97th contributed all the "Nose Art" photos on Page 4 plus those on pages 7, 8, 9 & 11.

We are guessing that all were 97th planes toward the end of hostilities.



# I'LL MEET YOU IN ST. LOUEY, CHARLEY

## S T A T E M E N T O F I N T E R E S T

Your Name OLEN L. MEDLEY Spouse BETTY  
(note: your address is on the back)

I will stay at Days Inn ☒ At an RV Park ☐ Other ☐

I will have 0 guests who will ☐ / will not ☐ stay at Day's Inn.

I will be traveling by Air ☐, Own Car ☒, Bus ☐, Amtrak ☐, RV ☐.

Golfers: How Many 0, Own Car ☐, Need Trans. ☐, Handicap ☐.

I have already made reservations at Days Inn ☒ Pre-Paid ☒.  
yes no yes no

I am enclosing \$50 as an advance for Registration and other Charges and I understand said amount will be refunded in event I must cancel. yes

I plan to arrive in St. Louis on Sept 29th and I would like to help with any or all of the following:

Registration' Golf' Bar Tender' Gophor'  
Bulletin Board' Singing & Dancing' Whatever'

-(cut along dotted line and mail to Charley Pinson, 8306 Eades Ave.  
St. Louis, Mo 63114)

## D O N ' T K E E P C H A R L E Y G U E S S I N G

- \* It is very important to send Charley your "STATEMENT OF INTEREST" form immediately - even if you think you might have to cancel at a later date because of unforeseen circumstances.
- \* It is equally important for you to notify Charley as soon as you learn you must cancel.
- \* Running a Reunion is a numbers game and the host must make hard plans with his contractors that are based on information supplied by you members. It is much easier to delete names of those who find they can't make it than it is to crank in folks that come in out of the blue.
- \* You have read in Charley's letter that he hasn't planned a lot of group activities. He feels, and rightly so, that you might wish to buddy up with some of your friends to take in some of the many outstanding restaurants and attractions St. Louis has to offer. For example, Jo Ann and I will try to get some of our friends (all two of them) to go with us to the old train station.

So, if you have any druthers, Charley not only wants to hear about them - he **NEEDS** to hear about them so he can make your stay in his town a happy one. (Hey, I just got a telepathic message from Bette and she said, "Right on Dickie Bird!")

PUT THIS ON YOUR REFRIGERATOR DOOR

BETTE & CHARLEY PINSON, 8306 EADES AVE., ST. LOUIS, MO 63114 (314) 423-2391