

# HAPPY HOLIDAYS

Dec 1995

All You 82nd Grandpas and Grandmas

#35





## The 82nd Fighter Group Association

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## THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

After reading the responses to my insert in the October Newsletter, I made my recommendations to the Executive Committee and it has agreed to adopt them.. All the letters I have received from you have been in favor of cutting out the excess of expenditures over income. I appreciate your interest and suggestions. It shows us that the membership is concerned and ready to help.

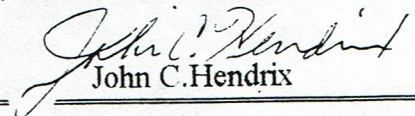
We do not wish to deprive anyone of the Newsletter if he or she wishes to keep receiving it.

I am asking Chuck Luke to keep all members names on our 82nd Roster but to list, separately, as "*Inactive*" those Members and/or Associate Members (as defined in our by-laws) who, for the last five years, have paid no dues (from 1990 or before). It appears that we are spending over \$1,500 per year to send newsletters to people who may not be interested..

If you have not paid dues since 1990 (or before) or find your name on the Inactive List and you still wish to continue receiving the Newsletter you must contact me. A payment of \$10 or more to cover the cost of the Newsletter each year will keep you off the "*Inactive List*".

Dick and Jo Ann Lingenfelter enjoy all the newsy letters you send for inclusion in the Newsletter & they wish you to keep them coming. However, our Executive Committee wants you to keep them short because the old rascal prints everything. We are determined to keep him within his budget as we must cease spending \$6,000 per year on a \$3,000 income!

**THANK YOU & HAPPY HOLIDAYS**

  
John C. Hendrix

### COVER

Jonathan David Duncan White

&

Aaron Michael White

Grandchildren Of

JACK & MERT DUNCAN



## PICKING UP THE PIECES!!

You probably haven't given it much thought but in the nine years we have been editing this newsletter we haven't sent out a **HOLIDAY ISSUE**. There probably wouldn't be one now except for a couple of things: 1) There is no other way to feature crabby old Jack's grandkids; 2) After the rough and tumble "**OPALTORIAL ISSUE**" we absolutely had to do a sequel as there were so many omissions; and 3) What a neat neat way it is for us to **WISH YOU ALL "a HAPPY HANUKKAH, a MERRY CHRISTMAS, and a HEALTHY & HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!"** Come one -- come all.

Now to pick up OPAL's pieces:

Originally we had envisioned (**for the OPALTORIAL issue**) an eight page summary of what went on down in Florida but it wasn't long before that notion blew away with Miss Opal. We started out just typing copy -- taking material from what we had experienced with Opal and what we had heard via Ma Bell and there was a lot of that. But then long letters of 1st hand experiences kept appearing in our mail box. What to do? We are mindful of pore ol' Roy's check book so we started rearranging and rerearranging and a lot of things just got lost in the shuffle. In the end we just said, "To heck with it", and filled 16 pages and mailed it. So what follows is some of what was left out and some that has come in since:

Dickie Bird & Jo Annie Bird arrived in Pensacola circa 8 PM the evening of Oct. 3. We got into a motel room and promptly called Hank and left our room #. It was raining hard then but we swam our way to the adjoining DENNY'S for supper and then swam back to the room and went to sleep. At 4 AM the phone rang and it was Hank, "Dick, the Reunion's been canceled. Get out of town as fast as you can!" So we did! By the time we got on the road north there were hundreds of cars ahead of us. and every second Opal dumped a swimming pool full of water on us. The WWs were useless But it didn't make any difference because it was ten feet stop - ten feet stop - etc. for hours. We were headed for Huntsville, AL where we were to spend the night with Jim & Lu Bates. Jim was our C.O. with the 448th Bomb Sq. in Africa. It took us 13 hours to cover the 350 miles from Pensy to Huntsville. Ironically, we missed a visit with our 1st cousin, Barbara Thomas, in Pensy. DANG!

Our return to Boise featured stops in Columbus, OH, in Cincinnati (for a short visit with Roy & Jo Ann Norris), in Columbus, IN where we visited with Dorothy Latta, in Ft. Riley, KS and a 1st meeting with a great granddaughter, a quick stop in Denver for a little "**ADORIMINI**" business + a visit with Ralph & Meredith Embrey and then, finally, a stop in Ft. Collins for an all too short visit with Milt and Ethel McCurry. Milt gave me my first ride in a B-25 out of DeRidder, LA back in '42. Finally, HOME at last after 6,616 miles. (Keep this under your hat but Buttercup, our Honda) ran out of gas near Heber City, Utah)



Earlier plans had us picking up Jerry Loewenberg on Oct. 4th in Pensacola where he was visiting a lawyer friend with whom he had served in Korea. On the way, though, we realized it would have been a tight squeeze for Jerry and his baggage so when we stopped in Ft. Worth we asked Ken & Betty Herrick if they could pick up Jerry. Of course they agreed but when they got to Baton Rouge the next day it was clear they could go no farther so they called Jerry to tell him they were turning around. Jerry and his friend headed north but could make no headway and returned to Pensacola. At Pensy, then, they were evacuated to a local high school where they had to sleep on the bare floor. Jerry stayed with his friend for several more days before he was able to return to San Antonio. Lady Fate (who is probably related to that OPAL broad) has been dealing Jerry some rotten hands during the past several years and she had another one up her vicious sleeve upon his arrival home. Jerry was hit with a severely painful viral infection deep in his throat which made it difficult to talk or swallow. We think he is better now but he still needs good vibes sent to him via your full throttle, air-powered ESP vibes. So start broadcasting guys and gals!

We just now picked up an August letter from Jerry which included the obit of Jack Newman who had been the Public Information Officer for the 82nd and later became Deputy Director of Radio & Television for the Secretary of the Air Force. The obit indicated that he had retired from the Air Force as a Lt. Col. For the last three months of my duty with the 96th I was Squadron Information Specialist and it's strange that I don't remember our having a Group PIO. Of course, about the only thing I knew in those days was my way to the Mess Hall. Jerry said Jack had purchased one of the first copies of "ADORIMINI" and he later called Jerry and complained that the books didn't give the EMs enough credit. Sounds like a real decent guy.

## **TWO "L." THOMPSONS IN PHOENIX? Plus some other notes --**

Yep, we have Lee of the 95th and Lute of the 96th. Lute was an early arrival (with Jackie, of course) and they suffered the same fate as the other tur (whoops -- today is the day after T Day. No slurs intended but if the shoe fits -- WELL!). early birdies. Lee got stranded in the Pensacola, Destin and Ft. Walton Beach area on Oct. 3. He talked briefly with Hank upon arrival but that was the last he heard of the 82nd until he got the "**OPALTORIAL**"!

It's really a shame that folks like Lee had to miss the Sandestin Reunion. Lee had been to only three reunions prior to this one and I know he was really looking forward to visiting with his old buddies -- as were several "First Timers". We hope that lightning doesn't strike twice and that Boston weather will be tame in Sept of 96. Thanks Lee, for sharing your experiences.

Had a note from Bob Hildebrandt and he said he had wanted to say "Good Bye" once more to his A-2 jacket which is hanging in the 95th FTS's ready room. Guess you'll have to make a special trip Bob.

Carlo Marlow is one of our Associate Members (a LIFE member to be exact). Carlo's hobby is collecting air war Ace's autographs (of all nationalities) and he wrote us recently that his count is now up to 1,249. He's a very persistent guy. Carlo was able to attend our Dayton Reunion.



One of the most common remarks and/or questions coming from our members regarding the whole miserable affair had to do with Hank. Right at the moment we can't remember if we addressed this matter in the Opaltorial and we're not going to take the time to look for it but, for the record NOW, Hank is fine and Marlene is fine. Their house is fine (give or take a few downed trees). Many of you were worried that you couldn't raise Hank or Marlene via Ma Bell. The reason: they were evacuated just like everyone else and went Orlando to visit Marlene's sister.

We had an interesting note from Ed Logue (a Droopsnoot Bombardier in 95th). We located him via Bill Oldenburg Sr. with whom we share two grandkids. Ole was a bombardier with the 301st Bomb Group in Africa (B-17s) and had seen Ed's name in the Bombardier's NL. Ed recently had a stroke and indicated he probably wouldn't be able to get to any reunions -- sez one of his concerns is that he can't get into his A-2 jacket anymore. We learned we had attended "Old Ivy Covered Eli" at different times and that he had married a girl who lived next door to our classroom building.

We have a letter here from Al Deforge (97th pilot). He is touting Ralph & Meredith Embrey for the 82nd's **"GOOD GAL & GOOD GUY AWARD"**! This was for being good Samaritans toward Claire & Al during the touch & gone OPALSASTER. We're sure R & M deserve such but Al should speak for himself -- which he won't so we will. Al is a quiet & indefatigable worker behind our Association's rough & tumble façade. He has found several new members for us and when Steve Blake lost two boxes of his books in a Boston suburb Al responded to our call and rescued 16 of Steve's books.

SPEAKING OF OUR "ADORIMINI", ONE OF OUR NEW MEMERS, C.E. "Ike ECKERMANN" (WHO WAS DISCOVERED WHEN HIS SISTER WAS WATCHING A TV INTERVIEW IN SAN ANGELO DURING THE REUNION THERE) SENT A CHECK TO US RECENTLY FOR TWO "ADORIMINIS" -- ONE FOR SANTA MARIA, CA'S CITY LIBRARY AND THE OTHER FOR NEARBY VANDENBERG AFB.

**You may also be interested to know that just yesterday (Nov. 25) we shipped 18 of our history books to TUTTOSTORIA, a bookstore in Parma Italy. Guys & gals your fame continues to spread.**

We also had a nice Opalnote from Dick & Sylvia Ostronik. They reported that they were evacuated from Sandestin at midnight on the 3rd and drove in bumper to bumper traffic for ten hours before they reached Mariana (up in the northeastern corner of Florida) only to get stuck in a grammar school. They had company, though, -- in the persons of Frances & John Kane. They then joined Hank & Marlene and their 4 cats at Orlando (at Marlene's sister's hacienda). Dick & Sylvia reported that they finally reached Palm Beach & caught a plane for So. Calif. by the 8th. Sylvia sent us love & huggies. FUNSVILLE, WHAT? S&D are top 82nders & Sylvia first met us righcheer in good Ol' Boise.

**Sylvia also said she and Dick met Hurlbut & Willsie at a National P-38 Board luncheon and learned about Frank's & Dick's adventure at the Nashville Terminal after bailing out of Destin. Upon their arrival at Nashville Terminal Dick & Frank parked their rental car for a few moments in front of the terminal to get their luggage inside. When they came back**

(Continued on page 6)



**outside --NO CAR !! It had been towed away!! The reason? Bomb scare regs -- no unattended vehicles are allowed to park in front of certain public places. They had to pay the towing fee plus a fine!**

We have some sad news to report. One of our best, Fred Selle, passed away suddenly on Nov. 17 in Salt Lake City. Fred had been working out in his garden and had come into the house for a rest when he collapsed. He was taken to the hospital but nothing could be done. We extend our deepest sympathies to Shirley and her family.

Fred was a good friend of ours and assisted our Association in many quiet ways. Among other things, Fred was a former commander of Utah's CAF Wing. One of his close friends and associates in the CAF is an 82nd Associate Member, Richard Meyer of Sandy, Utah. After Fred completed his 50 with the 82nd he found himself flying Jugs in the Pacific. He told us once, "Dick, while providing escort to the "Enola Gay" I had a ringside seat for the Hiroshima A-bombing". We will miss you Fred.

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**NOV. 28 CIRCA 10 AM & THE PHONE RINGS. IT IS TOM CARHART OF NORTH AMHERST, MASS. AND A 97TH PILOT. "DICK, I WOULD LIKE YOU TO SEND ME JEAN CULL'S ADDRESS BECAUSE I KNEW HER FATHER, GLENN DAVIES, AND I HAVE A PICTURE OF HIM THAT SHE MIGHT BE INTERESTED IN." SO, MY FRIENDS, OUR OLD CRAZY NEWSLETTER SCORES AGAIN AND THIS TIME IT'S A TOUCHDOWN. THANKS TOM.**

Tom told us that he had gotten as far as New Orleans on the 4th of Oct. So, back to the dazzle of New England's fall colieurs he flieu in lieu of the nious from Mieuses OPAL!

It is now Dec. 4 and we're six days away from mailing this Holiday Decoration. We've also been outdoors raking leaves and chopping kindling which are pleasant late fall chores. Last night we had a chat with Roy Norris who had just returned from a sojourn in Phoenix where he and Jo Ann basked in the sunshine and visited relatives. Roy also took advantage of the opportunity and visited John Kingsley who is having tough times healthwise. John is now hooked up to oxygen and is pretty well limited as far as the ol' heel kickin' business is concerned. Roy reports that Mary is taking excellent care of John. In a later issue we will try to give you a complete report on a P-38 model he put together from a kit. In the deep dark reaches of our Dickie Bird brain is a notion that Jim Baker (96th crew chief) had picked the model up while on his way to SANDOPAL. Beyond that the model's fate is pretty much a mystery. **PICTURES AT ELEVEN !!**



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## A LETTER TO BETTY FROM VINCENZO, ITALY., MAR 30, 1945:

NOW THAT I HAVE MY OWN PLANE, THE BEST CREW CHIEF ON EARTH AND SOME COMBAT EXPERIENCE, FLYING HAS BECOME FASCINATING TO ME. I WOULD RATHER BE FLYING OVER HERE THAN DOING ANYTHING ELSE IN THE WORLD. I LOVE TO FLY, AND WOULDN'T TRADE JOBS WITH GENERAL MARSHALL HIMSELF. THE BOYS I LIVE WITH AND FLY WITH ARE AS FINE A GROUP OF GUYS YOU COULD EVER FIND. ALL OF THEM FEEL AS I DO ABOUT FLYING - AND ABOUT EACH OTHER. IT IS A WONDERFUL SOCIAL ATMOSPHERE TO LIVE IN AND, FOR THE LACK OF AN APPROPRIATE WORD, WORK IN. I FEEL PRIVILEGED TO BE ONE OF THEM.

LOVE, KEN

ED'S NOTE -- KEN HERRICK & I HAVE WHAT YOU MIGHT CALL LITERARY RAPPORT & EXCHANGE WRITINGS OF VARIOUS KINDS FOR REVIEW, CRITIQUE OR JUST FOR THE HELL OF IT. HE HAS RECENTLY STARTED TO EDIT THE LETTERS HE WROTE TO BETTY (HIS WIFE THEN & NOW) AND THEY ARE EXCELLENT. I PICKED THIS ONE BECAUSE OF ITS SHORTNESS BUT ALSO BECAUSE IT'S ONE OF THE NICEST. STAY WITH US AND WE'LL PRINT MORE OF THEM IN SUBSEQUENT NEWSLETTERS)

## A LETTER FROM HAYWARD A. JENNINGS, 95th Ftr. Squadron (Dated Sept. 5, '95)

Just wanted to let you know that I thought it would be a good idea to present my copy of ADORIMINI to the Air Section of the Command and General Staff College at Fort Leavenworth for their Library.

I read almost every word of it and ***NOW IT IS IN HIGH PLACES!!***

*(Bravo, Hayward -- but we expect magnanimous gestures like this from Mr. Bone's College!!)*

**TREASURERS REPORT:** Cash on Hand: Checking -- \$2,617.30; CDs -\$11,409.34. The Executive Committee of the 82nd Association has voted to donate \$500 to the P-38 Memorial to be erected at MARCH AFB. The inscription is to read: ***82nd FIGHTER GROUP; 12th & 15th, AIR FORCES, MTO & ETO.***

Also, the History Board also voted to donate \$500 to the same Memorial. The inscription is to read: ***"ADORIMINI", The History of the 82nd Fighter Group.***

(Continued from page 6)

Roy also drove out to Mesa to visit the *FIGHTER ACES MUSEUM*. His goal was to inquire about the status of the 82nd's Memorabilia. It had been our understanding that when Willie was closed down and the 82nd FTW was deactivated a place would be established at the F.A.M. to preserve such memorabilia. Roy couldn't find anybody at the F.A.M. who knew anything about the matter? Sounds to us like something's rotten in Opalmark. The 82nd Archives Committee would appreciate some feedback.



## LETTER FROM GEORGE BOWERS

No longer can I hold back on the following info: I discovered that not only does McGuire AFB (N.J.) have a real live, perfect condition, A#1 P-38 on display but also (to honor Tommy McGuire) Base personnel have P-38s on their shoulder patches. In addition, the P-38 is featured on ALL their AIRPLANES!! These include KC-10s & C-141s. Each aircraft has a blue band atop the tail assemblies with a P-38 right in the middle. I heard about this from an airman and went to see for myself. It's true. I talked to the Historian who told me that all newcomers to the base are given a copy of the History of Tommy McGuire.



## CALL FROM DICK WILLISIE

Please tell our guys that the National P-38 Association Meeting will be at the Holiday Inn in Riverside, CA from May 15 through the 19th. At least one of the activities will be the dedication of the P-38 Memorial currently being erected by sculptor Robert Henderson at March AFB. Another activity will be a visit to The Planes of Fame Museum at Chino, CA (not far from Riverside.) where you will be able to meet some P-38 notables, including our own Travis Hoover. Make your plans now. We will have more detailed info in the March issue of this newsletter.

Dick also said to tell you that it's still not too late to have your name engraved (for posterity ) on the P-38 Memorial. Send \$500 to Robert Henderson, 49501 Highway 50 West, CANON CITY, CO 81212. Dick said many have come to him to say they were sorry to have missed the memorial at the AIR FORCE ACADEMY.

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This is a good time to remember those of us that have gone on to another reward. We don't think that **DEATH** is the absolute end else there would be no purpose of living. Each of us leaves our own particular stamp on the world and the manner in which we have made that stamp has had an influence on the way in which our old world has turned. In the past eighteen months there have been between 25 & 30 of our members (and 15 to 20 of our member's wives) who have gone on to other pastures. This doesn't mean that they have left us because we still remember some of the nice things they have done for us, we remember their smiles, we even remember some of the jokes they told. We remember that they were teammates as well as friends and that the two together is vital for a healthy society. So let us go on and remember them gently and savor the gifts they have left for us. -- RL

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Finally, my friends, we must look to the future. We are still looking for someone to step up and say, "Jake, old buddy, I will be happy to host a Reunion in my town in 1997. Just tell me what to do." Jake will tell you this, "Gerry (or Bill, or Tony, or Harry), Armed Forces Reunions, Inc. will handle all hotel and tour planning in many cities for approximately \$5 per person and the host need not live nearby. The host (you) will need to deal only with Armed Forces Reunion, Inc. How can you beat that? We need you -- how about dropping me a line if you are willing to give it a try.

-- John Hendrix