

# 82ND FIGHTER GROUP ASSOCIATION



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NEWSLETTER

MARCH 9, 2000

ISSUE 48

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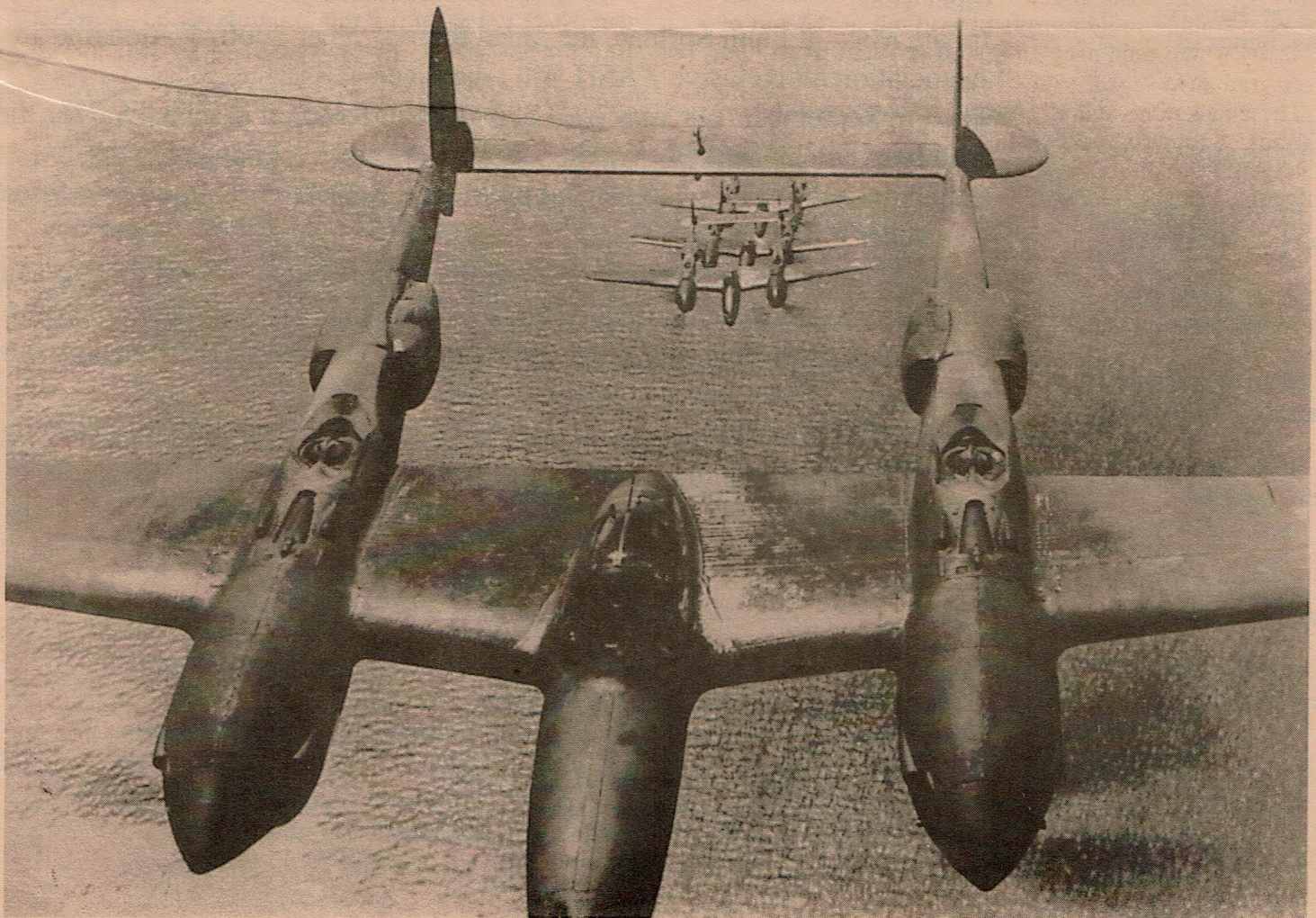
**SPECIAL IN THIS ISSUE:**

**Dayton Reunion Panoramic Photo**

**INSERTS For: 95th (Tyndall AFB )Reunion**

**INSERTS For: 82nd FG Michigan Reunion**

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# 82ND FIGHTER GROUP ASSOCIATION



## EXECUTIVE BOARD OFFICERS

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Francis Chapman

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Jack Duncan

### ROSTER

Charles Luke

### NEWSLETTER

Hank Phillips

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

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Time seems to do more than fly these days ----- must be jet or rocket propelled at least.

It just doesn't seem possible that five months have slipped by since our fantastically hosted reunion at Oklahoma City. And now during the next six months, we have the fun of selecting one, two or all three of the specially planned reunions around the country which strongly identify with the 82nd Fighter Group.

In early April our active 95th Squadron at Tyndall Air Force Base has invited all 82nd personnel to attend its "Bonehead" Reunion, which is held every other year.

In late May, at Palm Springs, the much touted "Year 2000" National P-38 Association all inclusive BASH will take place.

Then in September, our very own 82nd Group Reunion is scheduled for the Dearborn Michigan area. And in that regard I must acknowledge the tremendous effort being expended by Monty and Margaret Powers to insure us a super time.

I encourage you to attend any or all of these outstanding events that you can. In each instance a tremendous amount of planning has been done to ensure everyone a great time. I am especially partial to the Michigan Reunion, but who knows, I may just see you at all the others too.

Hoping the year 2000 is a good one for you, and looking forward to seeing you as the year rolls on.

Warmest regards, Will

## \*\*\*\*\*SPECIAL NOTE\*\*\*\*\*

\$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$  
YEAR 2000 Dues /// MARCH 31, 2000  
\$15 (Sustaining) \$100 (Life)



## Letters from The Members

( Sometimes abridged )

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From Christina Joslin

97H

Hank,

Looking over the Nov. Newsletter for the 82nd , I noticed in the photos/celebrants list you have me listed as Aaron Joslin's granddaughter. I thank you for the compliment, but I'm his youngest daughter. Kay, who accompanies us to the reunions, is the oldest daughter, not my mother. Also, please add my e-mail address to the growing list.

We plan to attend both reunions this year and are looking forward to them.

Tina Joslin

{ My sincere apologies to both you and Kay. Roy Norris will recommend a punishment of 50 lashes for this--here's hoping that Will Hattendorf will over-rule him. }

hp

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From Mac and Meg McAdams

97th

Dec. 24, 1999

Dear Hank and Marlene,

Summer is upon us again. Even after all these years in the southern hemisphere, it is hard to really get into the holiday spirit with hot weather. But two of our local grandkids (ages 13 and 15 ), came by this afternoon with presents and visited for a while with the Gramps.

I just came back from the local airport (grass strip). I was going to get a checkout in the ultra light, but the instructor did not show up. Maybe we can do it later this weekend.

We want to wish you a very Merry Christmas and we hope the New Year brings good tidings.

Mac and Meg.

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From Margo and Bryce Hughes

96th

Hello,

It was such a joy visiting with you at the reunion here in the city. Maybe someday you would like to come back just for a special visit with us.

Continue to love and take care of one another.

Fondly,

Margo and Bryce.

\*\*\*\*\*

From Russ Bowen

96th

Hank,

The other night I started up my Pits and it was a beautiful clear night. I flew around at 10,000 feet looking it over. I had forgotten how it looked, "the Selva" \* (See page 4 ) from the air. Not any traffic out here and if not looking around, you can lose the city of Moyobamba.

Not much radio in the Pits. The city is just a few lights on the ground. On a good day it's easy to see the roads in the jungle but at night, no traffic and very little movement.. It reminded me of back in the 40's; flying west out of Denver and following the airways looking for a city in between the Mts.

It was great but at my age and with glasses, I don't think I will do it again. No lights on the field. Only truck lights and knowing the

area as aids.. I guess I'm getting old. It is a lot more fun in the daytime flying up and down the valley simulating strafing runs on trains or something. That's the way it is. I often think that in my little 736 lb. S1 Pits, I will meet up with the *Red Baron* around the next little hill. I found a hole in my tail and don't know if it was a rock or what. The downtown airport which is full of "fill" which is small stone....I have not had contact with the *Red Baron* as yet. Cheerio - thanks Hank

Russ

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From Verne Yahne

95th

Hi,

We are moving back to Louisville, KY on Feb. 25th, so I thought you might want to show that in the next issue:

Verne M. Yahne, 9732 Cornell Trace Road, Louisville, KY 40241; home phone (502) 426-2066. Thanks,  
Verne

\*\*\*\*\*

From Jack Walker

97th

Dear Hank -

Here is a shot taken at Chino museum in Calif (approx 1995)  
They have a open house almost every Saturday. The feature a WWII plane each show. I visited an pilots who flew that particular airplane.

FRANK Hurbut and myself have attended the Ques & answer period on the F-80 and the P-63

( See page 8 )

hp

until the Palm Springs Reunion!  
Jack Walker

## Pop Quiz:

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Date: 1927

Place: Reading, Pennsylvania

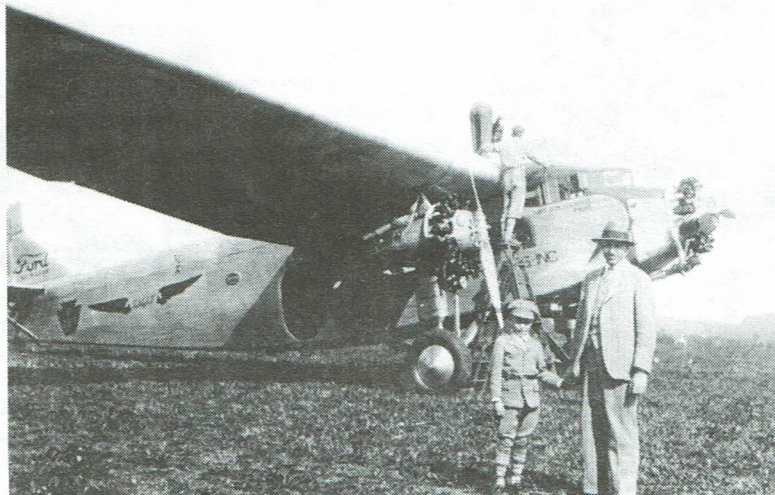
Who is the "cute little fellow" holding his Papa's hand?

(Ans. on P- 8 )

Hint --

a / 82nFG, 95th Sqn. Member,

b / Grandson graduated from the Air Force Academy in 1998 and first assignment was to the 95thFS at Tyndall AFB, FL.



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### Editor's Comments

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Knowing that I would get a lot of questions about Russ Bowen's use of the word *Selva* in his letter on Page 3, I wrote him and asked for a description. Russ answered promptly as usual.

The word is spanish, of course, and refers to the area about 100 miles wide lying east of the Andes and extending to the jungle. Its altitude is from 3000 to 5000 ft "like Denver, only plenty of woods".

I urge everyone to act upon Lingenfelter's request. Dig out your copy of the Dayton Reunion photo and send the names of those you recognize to "Ol Dicky Bird". He has *slaved and worried* over the project for about two years (maybe more) and deserves our help. For those who can't find the photo, a copy (reduced in size) will be in this newsletter. **SEND "DB" THOSE NAMES !!** hp

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For those who didn't recognize him on P-2 of NL47, it is the 96th's Mascot "Cowtail"

Written on the back of Lute's photo is "Cowtail, local mascot. Came over from the States on a B-17 quite some time ago". hp

No comment on the "character", the less said about him, the better.

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## Letters ( Cont. )

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From Lute Thompson

96th



CHARACTER, 1945

HANK --

ENCLOSED ARE 2 PICTURES FROM MY SCRAP BOOK. NOTE WRITING ON BACK OF DOG'S PICTURE.

QUESTION -- WHO IS THE CHARACTER PICTURED ON THE OTHER ??

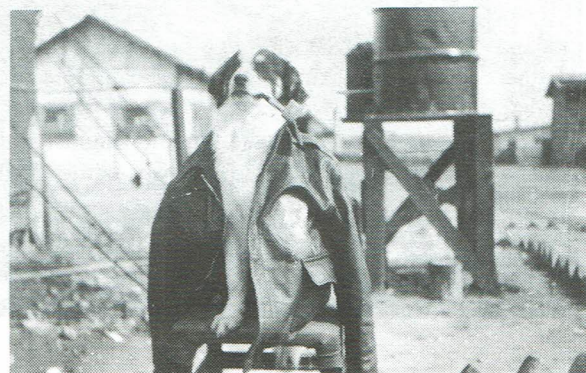
NICE NEWS LETTER - WELL DONE.

MADE IT HOME OK IN THE PORSCHE. LOST MY SPEEDOMETER CABLE & MY OIL TEMP GAUGE, OWOK.

SEE YOU ALL IN PALM SPRINGS.

ALOGRA

PS - PLS RETURN PICS FOR MY SCRAP BOOK.



# PANORAMIC PHOTO.....Dayton Ohio, 1988

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Assuming that a lot of you are like me, who can't find your Dayton Reunion photo, I have borrowed Roy Norris' copy and had it reduced. It's the best I can do for "Ol Dickie Bird". Note that the photo edges are lettered and numbered, in case some of you would like to send Dick the names of members other than those just around you. It should also help DB to find your place in the picture.

## Directions:

Aim for your pal's handsome (or not so handsome) visage. A ruler should suffice, but a square will be better. Your descriptions should come out something like :::: gg-30 (Hank Phillips); H-25 (Buddy Strozier) etc. For those falling in between, just split the difference, as with h I- 4 1/2 (Mel Roalsvig)

hp



A a B b C c D d E e F f G g H h I i J j K k L l M m N n O o P p Q q R r S



## We See The 82nd Fighters Again

by Frank B. Dean, 380th, 310th

**Editors Note:** This story was found in the unpublished files with the notation from Frank Dean "Paul, if it has merit. Use it. Frank, Feb. 1990".

"The 310th Bomb Group was organized as part of the war effort of World War II. It came into being as part of a General Order dated March, 1942.

In California, another group of men were being trained in P-38's with an obvious destination in the Pacific area. In August and September, 1942 the 82nd Fighter Group was sent to Northern Ireland. Their men expected to get into the European war but they too were scheduled to be part of the North African occupation.

Our paths would intertwine from December 1942 until the end of the North African war in May of 43.

Our inadequately armed B-25 bombers climbed into North African skies, dominated by German and Italian fighters, protected by outnumbered P-38 pilots whose sole purpose was to insure the safety of our bombers. (Cont. P23)

(82nd. Fighter Group cont.) They were the 310th life insurance. Without them our men and B-25's would never have survived. To say that they were appreciated was one of the understatements of the war.

It would be the P-38's that formed our bombers first line of defence. They would pay a heavy price. The 82nd, alone, would lose 64 of their aircraft during the six month Tunisian Campaign. Despite their protection the 310th would lose twelve of our bombers to enemy fighters. Without the P-38's the loss would have been much heavier. However, the P-38's the loss would have been much heavier. However, the P-38's could not protect the B-25's from the flak that downed another eight of our B-25s.

On 9 August 1944 our paths would cross again. The 310th had been bombing Italian targets from Ghisonaccia Gare. Corsica since January, 1944. The 82nd had been in Italy protecting the B-17's and B-24's on long range missions.

On August 9, 1944, P-38 pilots flew in to our base. The support troops from the 82nd arrived in C-47's. They arrived on our base as part of the build-up of air power to support the invasion of Southern, France.

Like the 310th, most of the original pilots in the 82nd were dead or had returned to the U.S. However, like us the original ground personnel was still intact. We would remember, together, the early months of 1943 when they sat at Berteaux, Algeria, with only a road between our units.

Though it was only a year and a half ago, we spoke of a war that the new replacements had never known. We talked of days when German and Italian fighters ruled supreme and their night bombers circled in the darkness seeking our base hidden in the Algerian hills.

We talked of common fields like Berteaux and Telergma. They talked of North African airfields at Souk el Arba and Grombalia. We mentioned Dar el Koudia, Menzel Temine, Dudna, and Phillipville.

We spoke of mission targets, crippled aircraft, and men who were dead or had survived the odds and were now in the States, leaving behind some of old warriors to whom the names of the dead and living brought bright memories of faces and personalities and fresh hurt form the deaths of friends that we had known.

Old men, of ages twenty two and twenty three, talked of an old war that had never existed for the replacement crew who knew only of the air war being fought over targets in Italy and France. They were of a newer and different generation.

The 82nd. Would fight out it's time over France and return to Italy. We would remain in Corsica.

The mechanics of the 82nd would depart leaving us mechanics of the 310th with only the memory of the time we remembered. (Frank Dean)

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THE ABOVE ARTICLE  
WAS CONTRIBUTED BY  
DICK LINGENFELTER.

LACK OF SPACE  
DICTATED THAT SOME  
DELETIONS WERE  
NECESSARY

hp

T t U u V v W w X x Y y Z z aa bb cc dd ee ff gg hh ii jj kk ll mm nn oo pp qq

## E-mail Addresses:

( 82nd FG Members )

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Omitted from this issue due to lack of space..  
PRINTED SHEETS available upon request.

hp



## Letters ( cont. )

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From Chuck Luke

97th

To Will Hattendorf, Chappy Chapman and Hank  
Re. e-mail from Jack Harloe.

*I am a college classmate of Lt. Tom Judd, 82nd Fighter Group, who was MIA until the war's end when he turned up a prisoner in Yugoslavia. I'm trying to locate him. If anyone has knowledge of his whereabouts, I'd appreciate hearing from them. Thanx.*  
Jack Harloe ( jackharloe@aol.com )  
Pomona, CA USA - January 14, 2000 at 11:22 15 (PST)

I checked all my rosters (incl. inactive members) and could not find his name. He is listed in our history book as a POW, which indicates he was released at the end of the war. Regards,  
Chuck

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From Chuck Luke

97th

To Roy Norris, Dick Lingenfelter, Hank.  
Re. E-mail from Les Mitchell.

Hi all,  
Have just found a new member as a result of a contact by his son as follows:

Dear Mr. Luke,  
Sorry it's taken so long to get back to you with my dad's home address. Unfortunately, we lost our internet service at home and it's taken almost a month to get back on line. Needless to say, the internet providers here in Korea are not the most reliable. My father's home address is:

Les Mitchell, P.O. Box 7488, Klamath Falls, OR 97602, Phone is (541) 882-1607.

Mine is as follows:

Maj. Sid Mitchell, UNCMAC, PSC 303 Box 54, APO 96402-0054

Les was an original member of the 97th and was a crew chief until Feb. or Mar. of 1945. He is excited about attending this year's reunion in Michigan... **Dick**-- he would like a copy of *Adorimini*. Could you get in touch with him about the details. Better yet, send him a copy and include a bill if needed. I have welcomed him to the organization and am sending a roster.

**Roy**... you may want to send him a welcome from the Head Shed. Needless to say **Hank**, we need to get him on the newsletter mailing list.

It sure is fun to find a new member like Les. I think his son found me as a result of our Fightertown web page.

Regards,  
Chuck  
{ At this time, **Dick** is in contact with Les; **Roy** has sent his "welcome package" plus back copies of 82nd NL's; **Hank** has placed both Les and son, Sid on the NL mailing list. }

hp

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## \*\*\*\*\* SPECIAL NOTE \*\*\*\*\*

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From Lillian Stockton

97th

Dec. 3, 1999

Dear Mr. Phillips

Just a note to say that after several small strokes, Otis is in the nursing home since Jan 14 th this year.

He has diabetes and neuropathy in his legs making him unable to walk. His mind is clear.

He enjoys reading all the news letters.

I'm sorry I missed his dues for '99. It's not been an easy year.  
Sincerely,  
Lillian Stockton,  
wife of Otis Stockton



\*\*\*\*\*

From Link Jones

96th

From: <LINCOLN2J@cs.com>  
To: <hpphil@gnt.net>  
Sent: Tuesday, February 22, 2000 11:23 PM  
Subject: NL Item

Hello Hank,

If it isn't too late for a NL item, you might want to insert (or change) the previous NL item of extra copies of Lightning Strikes being available for mailing.

"I've had a number of E-mail requests for the Lightning Strikes publication and have sent them all out. Sorry, no more available.  
Link

Jones"

{ The above article refers to an E-mail msg sent to the members on 7 Feb. Dick Willsie had given Link about 30 extra copies of the P-38 Assn's newsletter *Lightning Strikes* for members upon request. The copies were free and obviously went fast. }

hp

**Letters ( Cont. )**  
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**From George Bowers**  
(See page 4 )

**95th**

Hank,

Some time ago you asked for some photographs - so - this one has been around for a long time. It was taken in 1927, a few miles out of Reading, Pa. that's a cow pasture not an airport. I was five years old, my father (with me) took me up for a ride. I was thrilled to death.

The ride I remember quite well, the ship - Tri Motor Ford with wicker seats - (the ship made a lot of noise.)

The refueling<sup>system</sup> was still used in places during W.W.II.

Hope everyone is happy & well,

Your Buddy  
George

(95th)

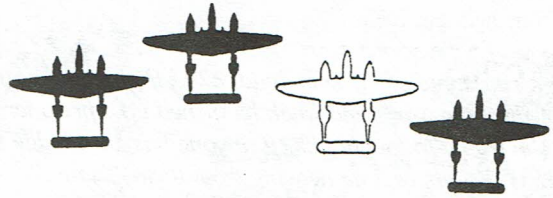
\*\*\*\*\* **SPECIAL NOTE** \*\*\*\*\*

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**FLY BY of HONOR**



Missing plane formation for recently departed heroes of the 82nd

**	**	**	**	**	**	**
<b>Ralph Embrey</b>				<b>6 Dec., 99</b>		<b>95th</b>



ABOVE.

Chino Museum, CA {circa 1995}  
See Page - 3

\*\*\*\*\*

LEFT ★

Harley Vaughn  
Honored by the Oklahoma  
Air and Space Museum Hall of Fame.

From Betty Herrick

96H

1/7/00

Dear Hank -

I erased the message & then I tried to remember who left it (Senior moment!) but I think it was you.

Yes, please take Ken's E-mail address off your list. It's no longer in service - and it wasn't used at all for quite a few months.

Ken really loved the 82nd Fighter Group and the men in the Association. I was sorry he missed a few reunions. His experiences and camaraderie (CAMARADERIE)

<sup>P-2</sup>  
in Italy were a highlight of his life - and he always thought that the P38 was the best fighter plane in WWII - and the men who flew and serviced them were the best, too!

I miss him and all of you.

Best wishes,

Betty Herrick

From Meredith Embrey

95H

3 Jan 00



Dear Hank -

I'm enclosing a poem that says "Thank you" better than I could say it - Could you print in your next Newsletter?

All goes as well as could be expected - It's a tough road to travel.

Thanks for your help -

Sincerely  
Meredith

Perhaps you sent a lovely card,  
Or sat quietly in a chair,  
Perhaps you sent a funeral spray,  
If so we saw it there.  
Perhaps you spoke the kindest words,  
As any friend could say;  
Perhaps you were not there at all,  
Just thought of us that day,  
Whatever you did to console our hearts,  
We thank you so much whatever the part.

The Family of  
Ralph C. Embrey

( See pages 5 and 6 )

PLEASE HELP  
*POOR OL' DICKIE BIRD*

*He wants to get the beautiful  
Dayton Reunion Picture off his*

**COTTON PICKIN' BACK**

SO

Here's the plan: Get your picture out of your Den's closet,  
take it to the kitchen table, find your handsome visage  
(that means M U G , pal) and simply identify your  
buddies right around you! That's as easy as apple pie!

\*\*\* +++ \*\*\*

Then, simply write down the names you have recollected,  
stick them in an envelope and send them to Dickie Bird!  
He Will Be Happier Than a Bird Dog!

OLD DB WILL BRING THE PICTURE TO DETROIT FOR A  
FINAL LOOK AND THEN IT WILL BE INSTALLED IN  
THE P-38 HANGAR AT MARCH AFB FOR  
ETERNITY

Old Dickie Bird's Address:  
3296 Agate Court  
BOISE, ID 83705

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