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NEWSLETTER

November 27, 2002

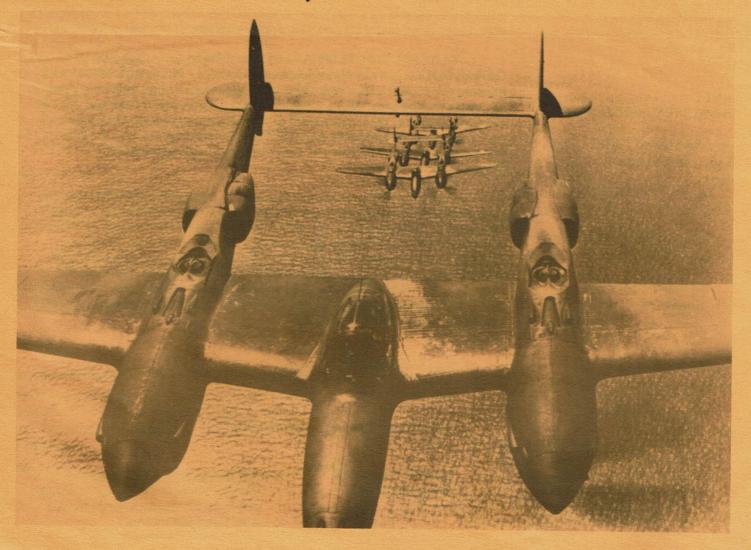
**ISSUE 56** 

## SPECIAL IN THIS ISSUE:

Glacier Girl Coverage Sacramento Reunion 2002 Photos

"Reunion 2003" will be in Hartford, Connecticut Hosts: Phil, Marsha, and Steve Taback Tentative dates: 10 to14 Sept. or 17 to 21 Sept

"Reunion 2004" is scheduled for San Diego, California Hosts: Dick and Sylvia Ostronik





OFFICERS

PRESIDENT
Ralph M. Powers Jr.

VICE PRESIDENT Donald T. Foley

SECRETARY/TREASURER Roy E. Norris

PRESIDENT EMERITUS Harley C. Vaughn

PAST PRESIDENTS
Will Hattendorf
George Marvin
John Hendrix

UNIT REPRESENTATIVES

HEADQUARTERS
Bon Mason

95th SQUADRON Olen Medley

96th SQUADRON Francis Chapman

97th SQUADRON Jack Duncan

ROSTER Charles Luke

NEWSLETTER Hank Phillips

### PRESIDENT'S PAGE

Dear Members of the 82<sup>ad</sup> Fighter Group Association,

Margaret joins me in sending Seasons Greetings to all of you. Our Association is greatly blessed with members who skillfully provide for our needs! This Newsletter and our Roster and our Secretary – Treasurer Reports are excellent. Many thanks again to Hank, Chuck and Roy. Also, each year brings us a memorable reunion as shown by our Hosts at Sacramento and Tucson—thanks again Slick, Fern and Jim.

Now our Reunion 2003 and Reunion 2004 are to be hosted by members eager to show off HARTFORD, CT and SAN DIEGO, CA. Thankyou Phil, Steve and Marsha Taback along with Sylvia & Dick Ostronik for we are looking forward to these times with you. — YOU are GREAT! In addition Barb and Bert Luetzow wanted us to come to an OSHKOSH E.A.A. FLYIN. Their efforts are appreciated even though our General Membership declined because of the heat and crowds.

GLACIER GIRL FLIES AGAIN! First Flight was on Saturday 26
October, 2002 the last day of our Sacramento Reunion. Mr. J. ROY SHOFFNER
financed this reconstruction from The Greenland icecap to First Flight last month at
Middlesboro, Kentucky. Bob Cardin was in charge of retrieval from over 250 feet
below the surface of the icecap as well as the reconstruction of the 1942 P-38 with
only a few air hours registered before its "belly landing" on the snow in 1942.
Roy and Bob we are very proud of your dedication, skill and high costs!
Congratulations.

Only a few weeks before our Sacramento Reunion it was discovered that ALL THREE Squadrons were now active! You will find vital records of the 95<sup>th</sup>, 96<sup>th</sup> and 97<sup>th</sup> listed elsewhere. The 95<sup>th</sup> BONEHEADS are at Tyndall, FL flying F-15 Eagles, while our 96<sup>th</sup> Slugging Desert Jack Rabbits are training pilots at Laughlin AFB at Del Rio, TX as our 97<sup>th</sup> DEVIL CATS do at Sheppard AFB at Wichita Falls, TX. In spite of short notice Lt Col Wolf ASMUS, CO of the 97<sup>th</sup> Sqdn. and Lt Col Ken Mattison, CO of the 96<sup>th</sup> and Mrs. Katherine DONOVAN wife of Lt Col Mathew DONOVAN, CO of the 95<sup>th</sup> shared our Reunion Banquet to represent the active 95<sup>th</sup>, 96<sup>th</sup> and 97<sup>th</sup>.

Very best wishes

and

God Bless the United States of America!

Ralph M. Powers, JR November 3, 2002 Roy Norris Quiz question #9
If Hank Phillips had Roy's job, he would charge the 82<sup>nd</sup> (a) \$I.50/hr; (b) \$15/hr; (c) \$150/hr; (d)\$1500/hr.

### \$ \$ \$ DUES ARE DELINQUENT AFTER 31 MARCH OF THE CURRENT YEAR \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ SECRETARY/TREASURER'S REPORT

### [ Newsletter is free to all Sustaining, Honorary and Life Members ]

Current Sustaining dues -- \$15 per year, Life membership is \$100, Associate Members -- \$10 voluntary (incl. newsletter ). Send checks to: Roy Norris, Sec/Treas., 82nd Ftr. Gp. Assn., 6636 Plantation Way, Cincinnati, OH 45224 

### FINANCIAL REPORT

1 JULY 2001 - - 30 JUNE 2002

BEG:	INNI	NG	BAL	ANCE

CERTIFICATE DEPOSIT	\$10,004.02
CERTIFICATE DEPOSIT	3,275.75
CHECKING	1,104.78
TOTAL BEGINNING BALANCE	\$14.384.55

### INCOME

DONATIONS	\$ 1,973.00
DUES - LIFE	300.00
- SUSTAINING	890.00
INTEREST	372.02
NEWSLETTER (ASSOCIATES)	105.00
REUNION SEED RETURN 2001	1,000.00
" PROFIT 2001	2,551.65
TOTAL INCOME	\$ 7,191.67

### EXPENDITURES

AIR FORCE VILLAGE FOUNDATION	\$	200.00
AUDIT		100.00
BANK CHARGE		24.50
GET WELL CARDS		14.72
MEMBERSHIP CARDS		51.94
NEWSLETTER		3,033.81
PHONE		21.60
POSTAGE		180.14
REUNION 2002 SEED MONEY		1,000.00
ROSTER		1,135.04
SPECIAL NOTICE- LOEWENBERG		238.46
SUPPLIES		56.37
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$	6,056.58
	Ψ	0,000.00

### ENDING BALANCE

must be paid...

CERTIFICATE DEPOSIT	\$10,148.70
CHECKING	5,370.94
TOTAL ENDING BALANCE	\$15,519.64

Respectfully Submitted.

Roy.

October 2, 2002

97H

00/01/02

04/05

Executive Committee, Et Al:

Address Changes

Hood, Rich 3011 Rockett Dr. Fremont, CA 94538 (510) 659-8647 97H Oliver, Jesse 500 Dale Douglas Dr. Lordsburg, NM 88045 95 Pratt. Blythe

Fisher, Leo A. 920 Oak ST. Apt 1, Paso Robles, CA 93446 (805) 227-4930 96 Walling, Kay (Joslin) 29610 Tallulah Le. Easton, MD

### New Members

Houk, Joe D. Capt. Executive Officer 97th FTS, 835 835 20th Ave. Sheppard AFB, TX 76311 Larson, Brock A. Capt. 96 FTS CCE, Laughlin AFB, TX

Stozier, Jeanne (Buddy) 1004 Glen Haven Pl. Boise, ID 83705 (830) 298-4835 95H Bellows, Gregory J. 4320 Mitchell St.

> Philadelphia, PA 19128 97H (215) 482-2049

85750-1831

21601 (410) 819-5977 97H

Thrall, Larry (Howard Thrall-Col. Charles Burton Thrall) 2924 ½ Main St. Santa Monica, CA 90405 (800) 423-2149 #126 97H

Adams, R 02/02 Litchfield J. A. Anton, S E 03 Metcalf, J R Hutchings J D 02 Weltman, J W Light, E 03 Loewenberg, B Donation

Grover, Arnold LIFE 2002 Tipton, Robert Zellman, Lawrence 2002

Deceased

Dues

See Page 9.

Respectfully Submitted,

Roy Norris Quiz question # 10

If elected to the job of Sec/Treasurer to the 82ndFG, you would offer [bribe] the Exec. Committee:: (a) \$1.50; (b) \$15;(c) \$150; (d) \$1500; to void the election.

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

82ndFG current balance [ a/o 18 Nov.,02 ] is; \$ 13,794.00 --From this, the bills for the new October 2002 Roster and the Nov., Issue of the Newsletter [est. well over \$2100 combined]

### E-MAIL ADDRESSES

(82<sup>nd</sup> FG Members)

Once again, in order to reduce expenses, the normal full-page address list will be omitted in this issue. Listed here are the additions and changes that have been made to page 4 of the August, 2002 newsletter. .. Members wishing the current full-page, please notify me and one will be mailed immediately

Betsy/Roy Elkins (97H) BAE1943@hotmail.com Karen Gangel (96H) new Karenig@optonline.net J.D.Hebert (97th) removed by request. Dick Kenney (95th) Rkenney@san.it.com T.O. 'Buzz' Mauch (95th) Tomym@earthline.net Al Scheckwitz (95th) alshecky@aol.com Buddy Strozier (96th) bstroz@gbronline.com Verle/Vivian Tillev (97th) new vevitilley@yahoo.com Marsha Taback (97H) marsha@temassociates.com Kay Walling (96H) new kiw@dmv.com Rich Wolfe (96H0 new rich@altairmicrowave.com

> Aida and Ben With Brig/Gen. Arthur J. Rooney Jr. Cmdr 82nd FTGp. Sheppard AFB Oct.,28, 2002

\*



\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\* 82ndFG Banquet Dance - 25 Oct., 2002



### TAKE THE ROY NORRIS OUIZ:

RULES:

Mandatory for 82ndFG Sustaining Members

Each correct answer equals 1 point;

Ten points equals a perfect score. [ qualified to lead the group] Nine points - [ qualified for group lead on 'milk runs' only] Eight points - [ qualified for squadron lead on tough missions ] " squadron lead against transports, trainers, etc.] Seven points -[

" flight lead on all missions ] Six points .-. [ " flight lead on 'milk runs' only.] Five points -. [

Four points.- [ "element lead.] Three points.-[ " wingman ] Two points .-. [ tail-end Charlie ]

One point .-. [ useful for low altitude/airspeed 'decoy duty'. Zero points .- [ permanent mail censor, OD, etc.; plus

# 1 on the list for the next FHAC\* call from the Army.]

\* Fox Hole Air Coordinator.

Answers on page 8.

Failure to send Roy your score rates you at Zero Points

The fine-print follows:

Delinquent Sustaining Members must start with a minus s six score

May 8, 2002

RE: 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Ernest J. Westine 96th Ftr. Sq. 82nd Ftr. Grp.

Dear Mr. Kane,

On a recent trip to the Glacier Lady P38 restoration project in Middlesboro, KY, Bob Hardin, Project Manager, gave me your name on the chance you may have been acquainted with my deceased husband, Ernie Westine.

I have very little information about the time Ernie was on active duty in the North Africa War Zone. Because of wartime censorship he never wrote about the missions, etc. he was involved in. At one time he alluded to the fact he had earned the nickname "Doc." If you have any recollection of knowing him, would you please let me know? I would appreciate it very much.

Enclosed is a copy of one of the letters I received from the War Department.

Sincerely,

Roy Norris Quiz guestion # 7

Manhattan Island was purchased from the Indians for the equivalent of:: (a)\$8;(b) \$15;(c) \$24;(d) \$34;(e) \$50.

Mrs. Lucille (Westine) Barry 4030 Tates Creek Rd.

Luille Barry

Apt. 3942

Lexington, KY 40517

From John Kane

96th

Exeter, NH 29 May 2002

Hello Hank,

Here is the material that I promised to send you . I really hope that we can find someone

who can tell Mrs. Barry something about Ernie. My guess is that I was in basic training at Newport, Arkansas about the time of his death.

I am going to try to reach her by telephone and, of course, I will get letter off to her today or tomorrow to tell her what we are doing.

Mrs. Barry is aware that Ernest was killed, The War Dept. notified her that on 4 Sept., 1943, while on a strafing run in the vicinity of Grazzanise, Italy, his plane was observed to fly directly over a flak tower and bursting into flame. There was no evidence of survival and presumed dead.

I believe that Mrs. Barry is asking for information about his daily life by from those who knew him best while flying for the 82ndFG. Any information, however trivial, would be welcome. She can be reached at the above address. \*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

# Sacramento Reunion Celebrants

# Host's Table

Claude and Fern Morgan Hosts 97th Monty and Margaret Powers 95th Roy and JoAnn Norris 96th Hank and Marlene Phillips 96th

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



Created and led a fine Reunion

# Table One

Roland and Bonnie Lynn		96 <sup>th</sup>
Ray Lynn	[son]	"
Sylvia Lynn	[dau]	44
Pincus Taback		97 <sup>th</sup>
Steve Taback		97H
Marsha Taback		97H
Ed and Theresa	Orr	95 <sup>th</sup>
Bob Rothbothan	n Ismosti	66



# Table Four

Link and Midge Jon	es	96 <sup>th</sup>
Don and Regina Fol	ey	97 <sup>th</sup>
Charley and Bette P	inson	96 <sup>th</sup>
Mary Beth Berney	[dau]	"
Roger Hesse		97H
Terry Massick		95H
Lt.Col. Ken Matteso	n Cmdr. 96th	FTS



# Table Two \*\*\*\*\*\*\*

Meredith Embr	tey	95H
Clark Embrey	[son]	66
Paddee "	[dau-in-law]	"
Colin Embrey	[son]	"
Sheryl "	[dau-in-law]	"
Chad Embrey	[son]	"
Chip Norris		96H
Jane Henley		97H
Blythe Pratt		97H
Linda Sheets	[dau]	**



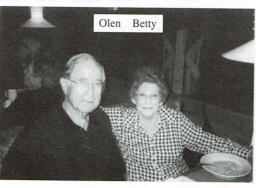
# Table Three \*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

Dick and Sylvia Ostron	ik 96 <sup>th</sup>
Ben Mason	Hq
Aida Reinarz	HqH
Bill and Pam Mason	HqH
Katherine Donovan, wif	e of Cmdr.95thFS
Joe Blasko [father]	M/Sgt USAF Ret.
Celeste Mahugh	[ guest ]
Lute Thompson	96 <sup>th</sup>



# Table Five \*\*\*\*\*\*\*

John and Phylli	s Hendrix	95 <sup>th</sup>
Olen and Betty	Medlev	95 <sup>th</sup>
Nancy Manduar	o [dau]	95H
Lola Giertz		95H
Bernie Kraft		95 <sup>th</sup>
Fred Wolfe		96 <sup>th</sup>
Rich Wolfe	[son]	96H
Bob Wolfe	[son]	96H

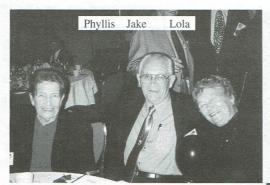


# Table Six

Hugh and Lucille O'Brien	95 <sup>th</sup>
Susan Daniel [dau]	95H
Christy Fitzsimmons [dau]	95H
Nancy Isham [dau]	95H
Bill Bean	95 <sup>th</sup>
Mel and Vi Mullin	95 <sup>th</sup>
Jack R. Duncan	97 <sup>th</sup>
Jack L. Duncan [son]	97H







# **Table Nine**

Col. Matteson

Bob and Betty Kennedy	96 <sup>th</sup>
John and Frances Kane	96 <sup>th</sup>
Wally and Pat Hackett [guests]	66
Burl and Florence Johnson	95 <sup>th</sup>
Patricia "Irish" Johnson [dau]	66
Al Schneider	97 <sup>th</sup>
Bob and Pidge Roberson	xxa

Charley



# **Table Seven**

Leo Fisher		96 <sup>th</sup>
Cecelia Dahms	[dau]	"
David Dahms	[son-in-law]	"
Jim Monyhan		96 <sup>th</sup>
<b>Buddy Strozier</b>		96 <sup>th</sup>
JoAnn Taylor	[guest]	"
Del and Mary Ry	land	95 <sup>th</sup>
Mike Pope Mont	v Powers' nephewl	guest



Rick Hood	k Hood Dick Ho		97H
Michael 'Mike'	Bryant	[guest]	66
Gordon and Ka	ki Fuqua		97 <sup>th</sup>
Mac and Meg N	<b>AcAdams</b>		97 <sup>th</sup>
Lt.Col.Wolfgan	g Asmus,	Cmdr. 9	7 FTS

Honored guests Don Kay



### Table Ten \*\*\*\*\*

Roses to Mary Beth

Bryce and Margo Hughes	96 <sup>th</sup>
Don and Kay Powers [guests]	44
Linda Lincoln [Bryce's dau]	66
Daniel Lincoln [ " grandson ]	66
Gene and Bette Russell	96 <sup>th</sup>



Best dancers on the floor Bryce and Margo Hughes

# Table Eight \*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

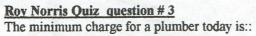
Chuck and Judy Luke	97 <sup>th</sup>
Whitey and Lucille Ellison	97 <sup>th</sup>
Gene and Phyllis Sidwell	95 <sup>th</sup>
John and Irene Caputo	97 <sup>th</sup>
Kathy Rockey [Bill Schildt's dau]	95H
Fedele Saccomano	96 <sup>th</sup>

Judy Chuck

### **Table Eleven** \*\*\*\*\*\*

Mel and Lois Roalsvig	97 <sup>th</sup>
George Rivest	97 <sup>th</sup>
Grace Davidson [guest]	44
Howard Warne	97 <sup>th</sup>
George Marvin	97 <sup>th</sup>
Tina Joslin ['Josh' Joslin]	97H
Kay Joslin Walling "	97H
W.D. Joslin [Uncle] guest	66
Margaret Joslin [ Aunt ] guest	"





(a) \$5; (b) \$15;(c)\$25; (d) \$45 or higher.



Dear Hank,

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

and renal failure

Just a note to let you know

He was buried in wankon

that Otis went to be with the

Lord July 31st- 2002 - He was

in the hospital for 10 days

with urinary track infection

Down with military rites

You might as well remor

Aug. 30,2002

October 14, 2002

Dear Mr. Fawers

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

I write with the sad news Hat my husband, Richard Gangel gassed away on april & by this exar. He died peacefully while watching television, having suffered a heart attack or strake

The spake of two war days frequently and was enarmously praid to have been associated with all of you. you were a heave and coula teams Though indeed! Would you findly mention his death in your next newsletter. would have whitlen somer, but it's been so defficult.

Please note my new address Excerely yours

his name from the yes, I miss him knew me to the

Roy Norris Quiz question # 6

Thomas Jefferson is on the; (a) \$2 bill; (b) \$5 bill; (c) \$15 bill; (d) \$20 bill; (e) \$50 bill.

### From Link Jones

To all 82<sup>nd</sup> FG members.

The 82<sup>nd</sup> Fighter Group will have an OFFICIAL website on the internet. Members attending the 2002 Sacramento Reunion, voted unanimously in favor of the website. All website activity, will be overseen by: Del Ryland -95th, Lincoln Jones -96th, Phil Taback - 97th. Terry Massick - 95H, is the Webmaster and T.J. Massick is the Web Designer. Items needed for the website include: photos, travel orders, rosters, reports, letters, newspaper /magazine articles, graduation/yearbooks, gun-camera/any film, diaries, anything and everything. The website is for all members of the 82nd FG, whether or not you have a computer. If you have no computer or access to one, please call Terry so arrangements can be made to get your items and information copied and submitted. Terry can be contacted at: Terry Massick, 979 Jewell Drive, Knoxville, Iowa 50138.

Phone number: 641-842-7451. Email address: twmcdm@harenet.net . This is a very important project for all members of the 82nd FG. Past, Present and Future. If anyone has any questions, contact Terry, Link Del. or Phil.

### RICHARD MERRILL GANGEL

Richard Merrill Gangel of Falls Village, died Monday, April 8. Mr. Gangel lived in Weston for more than 40 years. He was 83.

He was born in East Orange, N.J., August 7, 1918, the son of Isabel Ella Coon and Jay C. Gangel. Shortly after beginning his career as a graphic artist in New York, Mr. Gangel was called to military duty during World War II. He was later commissioned and became a captain in the Air Force, flying 60 missions as the fighter pilot of a P-38 in Europe. For his service, he was awarded the Silver

Following the war he returned to New York to work as an assistant art director at Esquire and attended the New School. Shortly thereafter he joined the promotion department of Life magazine. During his time at Life he commissioned Henri Matisse to create a stained-glass window to serve as the magazine's Christmas card. The window, "Nuit de Noel," was completed in 1952 and is now in the collection of the Museum of Modern Art.

Star and the Distinguished Flying Cross with three Oak Leaf Clusters.

In 1962, he was hired as the art director of a fledging magazine called Sports Illustrated. During his 30-year tenure, he revolutionized the concept of art direction and greatly advanced graphic design.

In 1982 he took early retirement to pursue fulltime his own career in fine art. Working in metal and automobile lacquers, and later with computer-generated images, he created modern abstract sculptures and paintings in striking colors.

In 1947, he married Joan Godfrey, with whom he had seven children. She died in 1982. In 1978 he married Karen Jensen.



Navember 2, 2002

Dear Hank,

Thanks so much for your emails Dalso received a lovery condalince note from Ray Norris. How kind of del of you.

Here are copies of Dick's stamps. I hope you can use them in the newsletter.

Linearly, Haren Gangel

Karen is referring to four US Postage Stamps designed by Dick Gangel (96<sup>th</sup>), circa 1981/1982.

From Dorothy Wood Doty

97H

6-17-02

Hi Claude This is to inform or remind
you that Carl passed away in
nov. of 97. Thave since remarried
and will not be attending this
reunion of probably no others. In
being treated for Cancer of ann
not able to travel.

Dorothy Nood Doty

### Roy Norris Quiz question # 4

A fill-up at a "cut rate" gas station today will set you back at least: (a) \$5; (b) \$10;(c) \$15; (d) \$20 or more.

US Stamps created by Dick Gangel

97th









From Bruce Loewenberg

HqH

Dear Hork,

Enclosed is own check for 1/00 to

Cover duer for my mother and myself.

Jam sure that I have forgotten to send

Them along.

My mom is still at air Faree Village I

in ton automio. She is doing as well

as can be expected.

I am so glad I got to take my dad

to tweson last year. It meant the world

to him to see all his buddies one more

Time

Time

To could be in Socrento this

Joint I have a migor conflict my feet

To all!

### From Bill Mason

HqH

From:

Cc:

<rngrbill@att.net>

To:

"Capt. Brock Larson" <a href="mailto:street">brock.larson@laughlin.af.mil</a>
"Monty Powers" <a href="mailto:smaller:mailto:mailto:smaller:ma

<ssguardian@excite.com>

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

ent: Sunday, October 06, 2002 10:29 PM

Subject: 96th FTS Visit

Hi Brock!

Thank you and also to all the 96th FTS for the great visit and all the time and effort you put in on making it happen for us. It was really great and we will not soon forget it. Also, it means a great deal to my sister and me that Dad is able to do these types of things that he loves so much!

Our flight back to Houston was fine and we had some help from a quartering tailwind as our groundspeed for a good portion of the flight was around 160+ mph! Climbed to 9,500' in order to maintain VFR, so it was cool and smooth all the way.

The photos should be developed tomorrow and I will send you prints of those I think you would like to have.

The welcome mat is always out to you and your family here at the Mason's in Colorado!

John Skinner Band 2209 Deodor St Carmichael, Ca 95608

Dear John,

Fighter Group Reunion at the DoubleTree Hotel on October 25, 2002. I heard nothing but laudatory comments about your band and the music played. Many attendees told me it was the best we have had in many years. We especially appreciated your playing TAPS in honor of those of our group who have "departed the formation."

Susan's singing was also great and her talk to the ladies Saturday morning was an enormous success. I hope you will pass along to her our profound thanks.

Sincerely,

### Fern and Claude Morgan





### Roy Norris Quiz (Answers)

Q #1 (d); Q #2 (b); Q #3 (d); Q#4 (c); Q#5 (d) Q #6 (a); Q #7 (c); Q#8 (e); Q#9 (d); Q#10 (d)

To be completed nlt 31 Dec., 2002

Send your score to:

Roy Norris, Sec/Treas, 82ndFG Assn.
6636 Plantation Way, Cincinnati, OH 45224
{ hint}

My score was 2 points [ Tail-end Charlie ], but with a \$15 check, Roy up-graded my qualification to Group Lead.

### From Larry Thrall

97H

Dear Mr. Phillips,

I am writing you to find out more about my grandfather, Howard Thrall (and my great grandfather, Co Charles Burton Thrall as well) who fought in the 97th Fighter Squadron and killed toward the end of the war. I was put In touch with you by Steve Blake. Who I found through a website regarding P38s.

Any information that you may have about my grandfather (and great grandfather) would be appreciated.

You may email me or call me at 800-423-2149 #126

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

Best regards,

Larry Thrall t.310.314.5126 t. 310.450,0143

### From Bob Pfleuger

97th

From: "Bob Pflueg To: "Hank Philli

"Bob Pflueger" <rpflueger@maxminn.com>
"Hank Phillips" <hpphil@gnt.net>
Thursday, September 12, 2002 3:11 PM

Sent: Thursday, Septer Subject: Your Grandfather

Larry, my name is Bob Pflueger and I received a copy of the email you sent to Hank Phillips about your grandfather, Howard Thrall. Howard lived in the tent next to the one in which I lived with four other pilots of the 82nd Fighter Squadron. I was also a flight leader on the mission during which your grandfather was killed. In fact, he may have been in my flight, but I can't say for certain because the records I have do not show the makeup of the flights of our squadron for any given mission. My records show that the flight was an escort of B-24 bombers to Yugoslavia. However, during this period of the war, after escorting, we looked for targets of opportunity on the way home after the bombers had left the target area. This usually meant strafing locomotives, troops and vehicles. The Germans used this area, as well as other routes through the Alps to transport supplies by train and truck to their troops in Northern Italy.

The Germans would have several railroad cars disguised as box cars but in reality were anti-aircraft batteries. The gun of choice for this activity was the Flak 88, without a doubt the best artillery weapon of the war. The sides of the freight cars would drop down exposing the weapon to the target. Because of the effectiveness of this weapon, there was a standard rule that under no circumstances should a second pass ever be attempted on a train carrying such guns since the only effective tactic on our part was surprise on the first pass.

I clearly remember the attack with our flights spread out laterally so as to cover the entire length of the train at a right angle with each flight covering a separate part of the train. We were less than 50 feet above the ground and after firing our machine guns and cannon at the train rose just high enough to clear the train and then dropping down again to maintain the same low level until we were far enough to be out of range of the German guns.

As we were climbing up your grandfather for some reason known only to him, returned alone to again attack the train. Of course, the Germans were ready and made a direct hit on the airplane causing it to crash immediately.

In the book that has been written about the 82nd Fighter Group "Adorimi", I believe Bob Law, who was wingman for your Grandfather tells his remembrance of the event.

I remember your grandfather as a great guy, excellent pilot and well liked by all who knew him. It was a great loss to the Squadron and all of the fellows who lived by and flew with him. I also remember that your great grandfather came to see Howard and introduced him to all of us.

I finished 53 missions and came home, never to fly a plane again. It was ironic that I was never in an airplane before the war and haven't flown since I landed my plane in May, 1945. My wife and I have flown all over the world, but I have never touched the controls of a plane since the war years.

If there is anything further you would like to know, please contact me.

Sincerely, Bob Pflueger

### Roy Norris Quiz question #8

Roy's charge for his services to the 82ndFG is:: (a)\$4.Hr;(b) \$12/hr;(c)\$15/hr;(d)\$50/hr; (e) none of the above.

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

8.

### from THE COURIER-JOURNAL, LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY SUNDAY, October 27, 2002

Home · News · Sports · Business · Features · Louisville Scene · Classifieds · Jobs · Cars · Homes Marketplace · Contact Us · Search

Local/Regional » News Item Sunday, October 27, 2002

World War II fighter once buried

Associated Press

MIDDLESBORO, Ky. -- A World War II fighter plane that spent a half-century encapsulated in a glacier in Greenland drew an estimated 20,000 people yesterday to see it fly again.

With propellers whirling and 1,275-horsepower twin engines humming, California test pilot Steve Hinton raced the P-38 Lightning down the Middlesboro Airport runway and lifted off for a 30-minute flight.

The plane was among six fighters and two bombers forced to crash-land during foul weather in Greenland on July 15, 1942.

The crews were rescued, but the planes were left behind to be slowly buried by snow and ice.

"Seeing that plane lift off was just thrilling," said Brad McManus, who had piloted one of the P-38s still buried beneath the ice cap. "It's a moment in time, a very special moment

The planes might have been forgotten except for people like Middlesboro businessman Roy Shoffner, who had become enamored of P-38s as a youngster.

In the summer of 1992, he recovered one of the P-38s, and he has had a crew working the past 10 years to restore it. It has been dubbed Glacier Girl.

Although the United States built 10,113 of the planes, just 24 survive and only a handful are still flying.

Crews used streams of hot water to melt a 48-inch-wide tunnel down to the plane and opened a cavern around it. Disassembling and retrieving the plane took about four months and cost some \$638,000, said Bob Cardin, director of the restoration effort.

the time Shoffner -- a 74-year-old restaurateur, former banker and 1950s Air Force fighter pilot -- got to Greenland, some 25 stories of snow and ice had accumulated over the plane. The weight had squashed it

http://www.courier-journal.com/localnews/2002/10/27/ke102702s302389.htm

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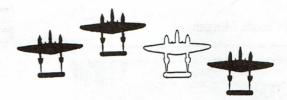
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of t	luntary Susta he Newslette Il as the reuni ur last memb	on seed m	once a year noney. Plea	Member Ro	ster, as
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				TO	OTAL 92
					Roy E. Norri Sec/Trea.

### Roy Norris Quiz question # 1

The last time your wife asked for \$15 to go shopping was ::(a) 1948; (b) 1968; (c) 1978; (d) can't remember. \*\*\*\*\*\*\*



### FLY BY of HONOR



Missing plane formation for recently departed heros of the 82nd

Raymond Murphy	Date unknown	96th
Dorothy Bellows	10 June, 01	97H
Richard Gangel	8 April, 02	96th
Otis Stockton	31 July, 02	97th



Our bartender caught in the act The shame of it all!



### \*\*\*\*\*\*\* Golf Tournament Results

### Haggin Oaks Golf/ Arcade Creek Course

Winner Net

Roland Lynn

{ Clock Winner}

Closest to Pin

Roland Lynn

Low Putts 29

Al Schneider

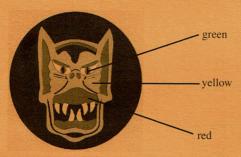
### Golfers by Tee-Off Position

#1 Groun

Pincus Taback, Steve Taback, Roland Lynn, Dick Ostronik

Al Schneider, Aido Bounaguidi, Leo Fisher, Bob Roberson

Jim Monyhan, Buddy Strozier, Chuck Luke, Mac McAdams



Black and white as shown

# Photo -- left to right

[s] Taback, Roberson, Lynn, Schneider, Buonaguidi, [p] Taback. Strozier, Ostronik McAdams, Monyhan, Fisher, Luke



### Roy Norris Quiz question # 2

The annual dues for a 82ndFG Sustaining Member is:: (a) \$5; (b) \$15; (c) \$25; (d)\$100.

Miss this one and it will cost you 5 points]

From:

"Chuck Luke" <ekul9782@attbi.com>

Attach:

97DEVILCAT.jpg

Subject:

97th FS Insignia and Name

As a result of a meeting of the 97th FS at the reunion in Sacramento, it was decided that the official insignia will be as shown in the attached picture. Further the name will be "Devil Cats".

This decision was needed because there are several versions floating around the internet, there were several versions around that had been used during the life of the 97th FS during WWII, and now the Active 97th FTS has used several versions.

We all felt that we should have an insignia that will tie the 97th together for the life of the organization. Lt. Col Wolfgang Asmus Commanding Officer of the 97th FTS, presently active at Sheppard AFB, agreed and is planning to change their insignia to this one and to see if he can make it official.

I sent a copy of his insignia to Terry Massick so he can include it into the website. I will update my website asap. The other place that may need updating is the P38 Association website. The changes for them are not large and may not be that important. It may depend on whether CafePress.com can make the changes in their sales items.

Jake or Steve, can you check on this.

Regards Chuck "Think Peace" Roy Norris Quiz question # 5

When your, grandson or great grandson asks for a loan to take his girl to a movie, he is talking about; (a) \$5;(b) \$10;(c) \$15: (d) \$25 at least...

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