



The Ragged Irregular

91st Bomb Group (H) Memorial Association Newsletter

Vol. 9 No. 3

September, 1976

Colorado Springs Reunion 'Best Yet'

One member summed up the sixth national reunion perfectly--"the members get older and uglier every time, but the reunions get better and better!"

The 269 members and guests who met at the Four Seasons in Colorado Springs July 7-10 might not agree with the first part of the quote but would enthusiastically support the second.

The host committee of Mr. & Mrs. Glenn V. Boyce, Col. & Mrs. Paul D. Jessop, LTC & Mrs. Milton A. Green, Mr. & Mrs. Aulden N. Dunn, Mr. & Mrs. Lewis Simpson and Charles H. Bonner, put together a package that was outstanding-- a top notch motel, a terrific program, and a perfectly organized operation. Even the weather cooperated, with beautiful sun every day, though the temperature was not typically cool Colorado.

A tour of the Air Force Academy with lunch at the officers mess began planned group activities. A visit to the pioneer village of the Flying W Guest Ranch, with a chuck wagon dinner and an evening of great entertainment by the Flying W Ranch Hands was a hit with the entire group.

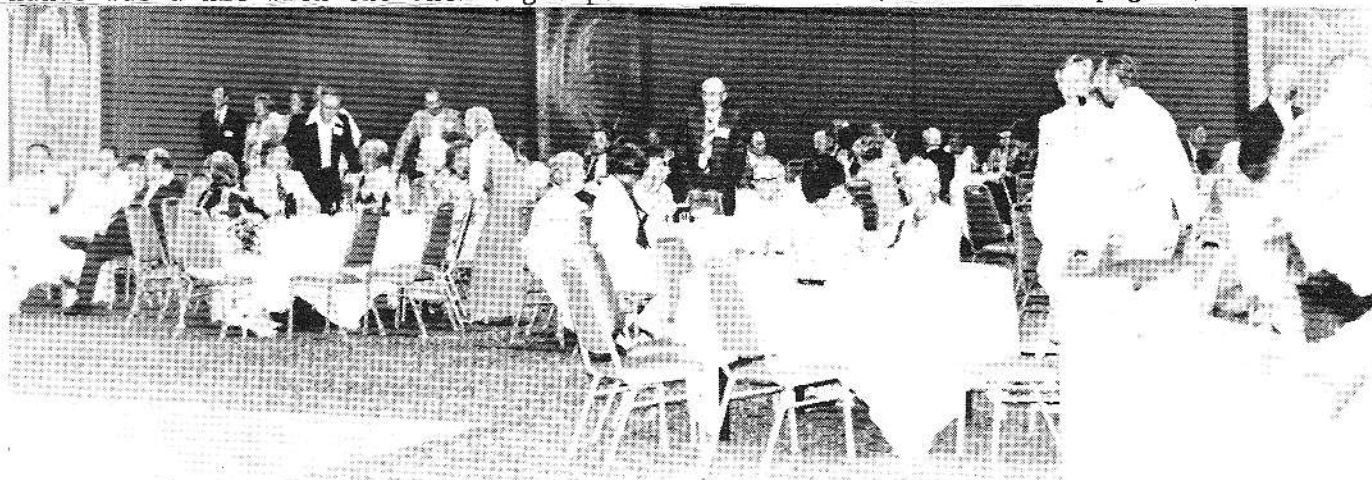
Unusual and fascinating was a trip thru NORAD, the North American Air Defense Center carved out of the heart of Cheyenne Mountain. The three-story completely self-contained headquarters is 1700 feet deep inside the mountain.

The activities were capped Saturday night by a banquet and dance at the Four Seasons. Music of the 1940s was played by Tony Lombardo's band. Special entertainment was presented by the Air Force Academy Orchestra and singers.

M/Gen. John R. Spalding, Jr., DCS/Logistics, NORAD-ADCOM, was a special guest. Lt. Gen. James Allen, Superintendent of the Air Force Academy, who had planned to be present, was unable to attend.

Ten persons joined the growing number of Life Members with \$100 donations to the Group. They were: SMSgt John R. Paget (USAF Ret) 401st Sqdn., Fallbrook, Cal.; Glenn V. Boyce, 401st Sqdn., Lakewood, Colo. (a surprise gift from his wife Lois); Col. Harold E. Walker (USAF Ret) 401st Sqdn., San Antonio, Texas; Lewis Simpson, 323rd Sqdn., Hudson, Colo., (a surprise gift

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Members gather in the main ballroom of the Four Seasons for the dinner-dance

climaxing the four-day affair. More than 270 persons attended the banquet.

from his wife Maldarine); LTC Marion H. Havelaar (USAF Ret), 401st Sqdn., Rapid City, S. D.; Albert I. Spieler, 323rd Sqdn., St. Louis, Mo., (a surprise gift from his wife Esther); Donald T. Ballou, 401st Sqdn., Lakewood, Colo., (in memory of his co-pilot, John R. Welch); Harry L. Knowles, 322nd Sqdn., Atlanta, Ga.; M/Sgt William D. Spoffard (USAF Ret) 323rd Sqdn. Washington, D.C., and Leon Croulebois, associate member, Paris, France.

William Dinneen, 401st Sqdn., of Taunton, Mass., was presented the mug for coming the greatest distance to attend.

Master of Ceremonies Bruce D. Moore was presented an ash tray made from a Wright engine piston with a miniature three-bladed prop behind it. The tray was donated by Aubun Pene.

Also at the banquet the Memorial Association presented a large painting of the Group insignia surrounded by the four squadron insignia to the North American Air Defense Command.

A plaque of the Group insignia was presented to the Air Force Academy, as was an oil painting of a 91st B-17G "Destiny's Child." The painting was done by Western Division co-chairman Gene Letalien's son-in-law, S/Sgt. Jerry J. Jellison.

In the regular Reunion business session Saturday morning a report of all Group operations for the year was made by both Eastern and Western divisions.

All current Group officers were re-elected by the members. They are: M/Gen. Stanley T. Wray, president; Eastern Division committee--Paul Chryst and Joe Camelleri, co-chairmen, Bob Gerstemeier, secretary, and Joe Giambrone, treasurer; Western Division committee--LTC (Ret) John McCombs, chairman, M/Sgt. (Ret) Gene Letalien, co-chairman, and M/Sgt. (Ret) George Parks, secretary-treasurer.

Paul C. Burnett remains as editor of The Ragged Irregular.

A major change in the Group organization was approved by the members. To conform to

IRS regulations for non-profit organizations the charter was amended to include a first and second vice-president. Col. Tom Gunn (Ret) of Arlington, Texas, was elected first vice-president. Members authorized the executive committee to appoint a second vice-president at a later time.

Three tentative sites for the 1978 National Reunion were proposed: Dayton,

Ohio, (if Shoo Shoo Baby is restored by the Air Force Museum there); Memphis, Tenn., with Joe Gagliano and Frank Donofrio offering to head up activities there, and the Tampa-St. Petersburg, Florida, area, suggested by Col. (Ret) Paul McDuffee. The Eastern Division committee will make the final site selection.

Harold I. Mannon (441st Sub/Dup) of Tulsa, Okla., who is an active worker with the American Cancer Society, organized an outstanding cancer detection clinic for the women attending the reunion.

The Group was informed at the end of the reunion that the Four Seasons staff had vote the 91st their favorite convention group of the year-- the best organized and the best behaved and most agreeable.

Attending were: Harry M. & Molly Adams, Paul D. Adams, Col. Peter P. Adams, Albin & Alice Andolshek, Lamond J. & Lillian Bailey, Squire & Evelyn Baker, Betty Sue Baker, Robin Baker, Nicholas Bankovsky, Ross & Joan Barnes, Lt. Freeman C. & Becky Beasley, James O. & Betty Bedwell, Chris Bedwell.

John W. & Duane Beety, Gunder & Ruth Berg, Harvey & Doris Bonnel, Charles H. Bonner, Glenn & Lois Boyce, Dolph & Pat Boyer, Dolph Boyer, Jr., David & Marnee Bramble, M/Sgt. Arnold & Charlis Brown, Kermit & Thelma Burman, Paul & Lorraine Burnett, Goldie Cahill, David & Ruth Calvert, Hubert & Eunice Carpenter.

Walter & Addine Carpenter, Orville & Roberta Carter, Paul & Nancy Chryst, Sam & Mary Cipolla, Vern & Betty Clabaugh, Helen Clanton, Robert & Bonnie Clapp, Clarence & Irene Cluck, John & Gertrude Conway, Burdette Cox, James & Katherine Daley, Neil Daniels, William Dietrich, William Dinneen, Frank Donofrio, Wilber & Lulu Duemler, Aulden & Ramona Dunn, Jeff Ebbesen, Edwin & Eleanor Ehret.

LeRoy & Jane Everett, Clayton & Freda Ferree, Ann Ferstadt, Katherine Fox, Joseph & Alberta Franke, LTC. Lawrence & Betty Gaddis, Jack & Jan Gaffney, Joe & Mary Gagliano, Col. Donald & Roberta Gauthier, Joe & Mary Jane Giambrone, Doug & Helen Gibson, Orville & Lillian Giese, LTC Milton & Gertrude Green, Agnes M. Griffin, Col. & Emalee Gunn, Lloyd & Mildred Guzek, Charles & Augusta Hackstock, Gail Hampton.

Joe & Jenny Harlick, LTC Marion & Pat Havelaar, Gaylord & Colleen Henryson, W.W. Hill, SMS Louis & Delma Holland,

Harry Hovermill, Michael Jessop, Col. Paul & Jo Jessop, Kenneth Jones, Delmar & Ielene Kaech, Bernard & Esther Kajewski, Col. Frank & Anne Kamykowski, James & Robin Klokis, Harry & Mamie Knowles, Matthew & Helen Kryjak, Jim Lackey, Robert & Lora Lackey, M/Sgt. Eugene Letalien, Robert Letalien, Phillip G. Mack.

Lloyd & Florence Mahan, Rocco & Frances Maiorca, Harold I. Mannon, Donald & Mollie McBey, Henry & Lorraine McCanney, LTC John & Betty McCombs, Edith McCoy, Richard & Margaret McCoy, Paul G. McDuffee, William & Elaine Miller, Luther H. Mitchell, Luther H. Mitchell, Jr., John & Marjory Moeller, Bruce D. Moore, Virgil Mott, Donald & Betty Moucka, Bert & Agatha Mullins, Brent Mullins, Lauri Mullins, Levren & Dorothy Mummert, Kathy Mummert, Russell & Peggy Murry, Emerald & Jackie Nelson.

Sam & Hilda Newton, Lee & Betty Nichols, Orlow R. Notstad, George & Eva Odenwaller, George Odenwaller, Kenneth & Doris Oslund, SMS John R. Paget, Bruce & Hazel Pardue, M/Sgt George & Marian Parks, Warren & Lukey Paschke, Jack L. Paxon, Aubin Pene, Randall & Lois Petersen, Carl & Frances Phifer, Clifford O. Pierce, Robert & Alyce Powers, Harry & Mary Raihl, Walter W. Reich, William & Pearl Reynolds, Raymond & Jean Ridings, Vernon & Wylene Rutter, Michael & Jessie Sibenac.

S/Sgt. Lewis & Maldarine Simpson, Raymond & Jean Slominski, Leonard & Marge Sowers, Rosanne Sowers, Albert & Esther Spieler, Tony Starcer, Erwin & Eunice Steele, John & Peggy Taylor, Anne Terefenko, Nicholas Terefenko, William & Margie Thissell, Col. William L. Travers, Marvin & Kathy Van Soest, John Ventura, Bob & Helen Vickers, Emile & Geraldine Vincent, Col. Harold & Nell Walker, Stanley & Luella Waslaski.

Howard & Lois Weber, Sally Weber, Donald T. Weiss, Robert & Joan Wolff, M/Gen. Stanley & Esther Wray, CMS Charles W. Yaroshak, Col. George & Lesta Zebrowski, Joseph & Lucille Zimmerman, Paul L. Zimmerman, Gen. Theodore Milton, Donald T. Ballou, LTC Charles & Martha Silvernail.

Several members who have visited Royston have remarked that the 91st Memorial Plaque mounted at the fountain has been defaced by vandals. The Town Council maintains the original bronze plaque in the Town Hall--those mounted at the fountain are plastic replicas.



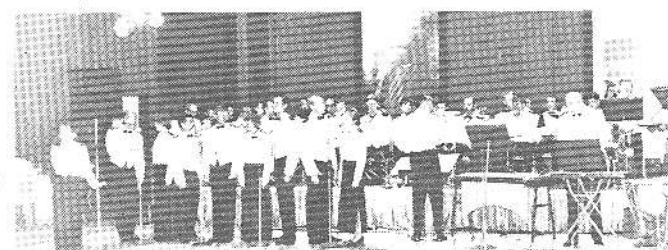
Members gather for the briefing for the trip to NORAD.



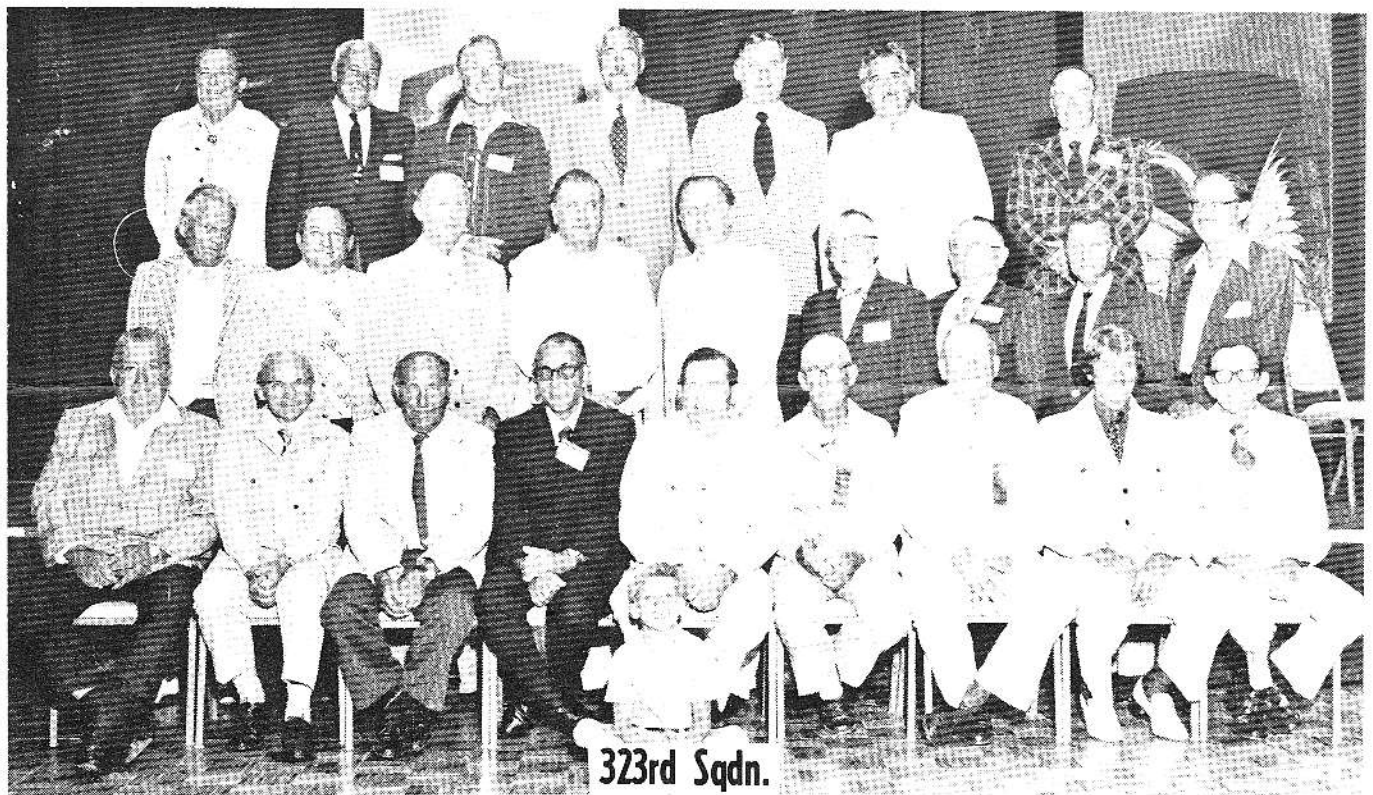
Thursday at the Flying W Guest Ranch. Shown are Glenn Boyce, Col. Paul D. Jessop (Ret) and M/Sgt. George Parks (Ret).

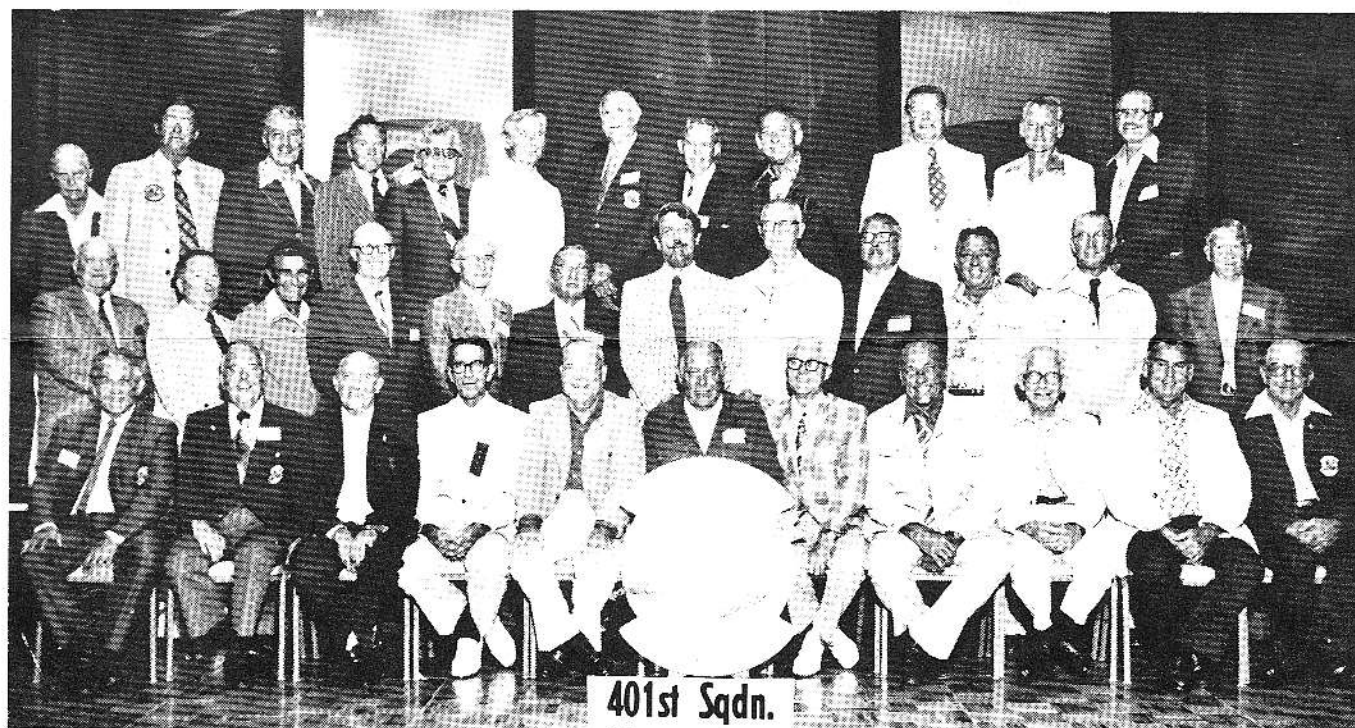


Flying W Ranch Hands entertain the troops.



The U. S. Air Force Academy Band at the Saturday night Dinner-Dance.



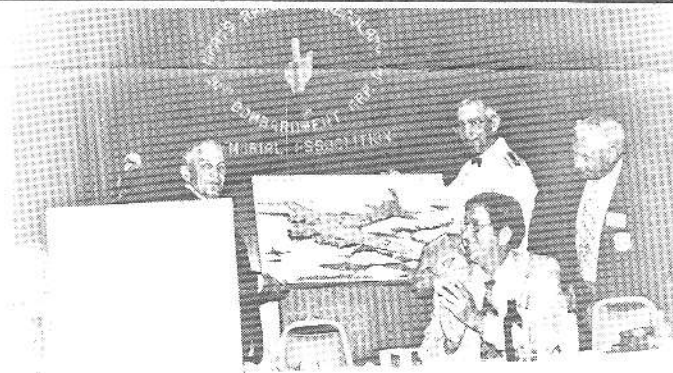




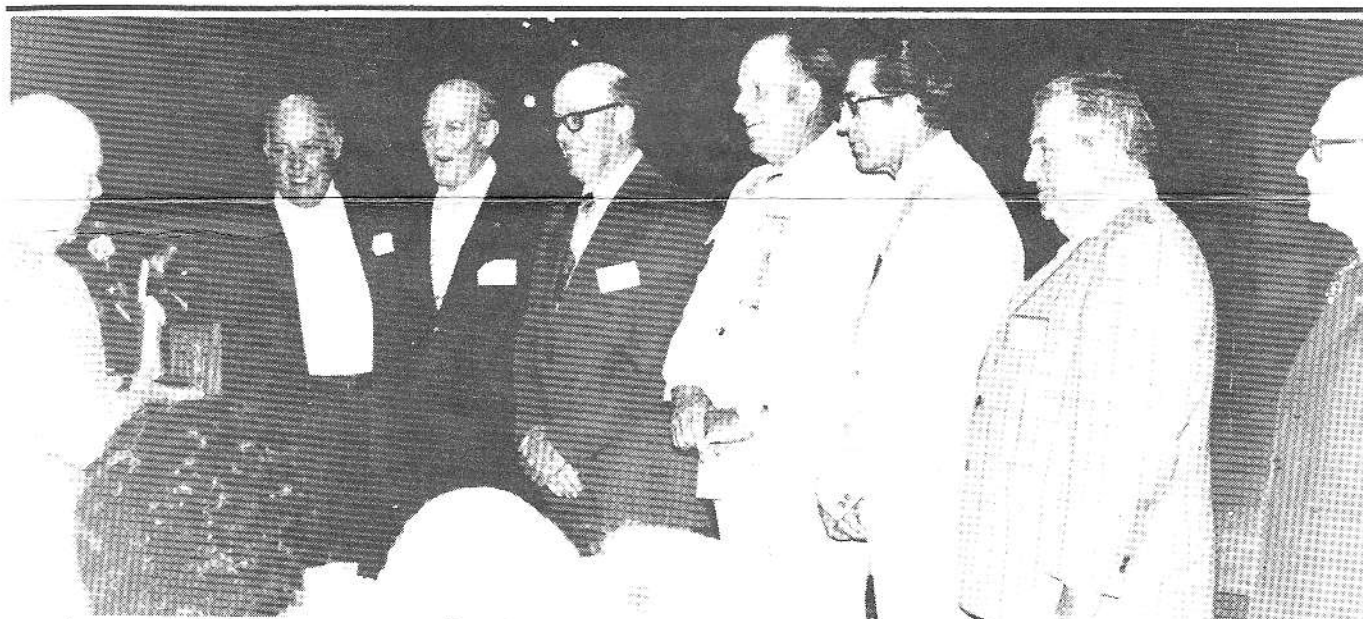
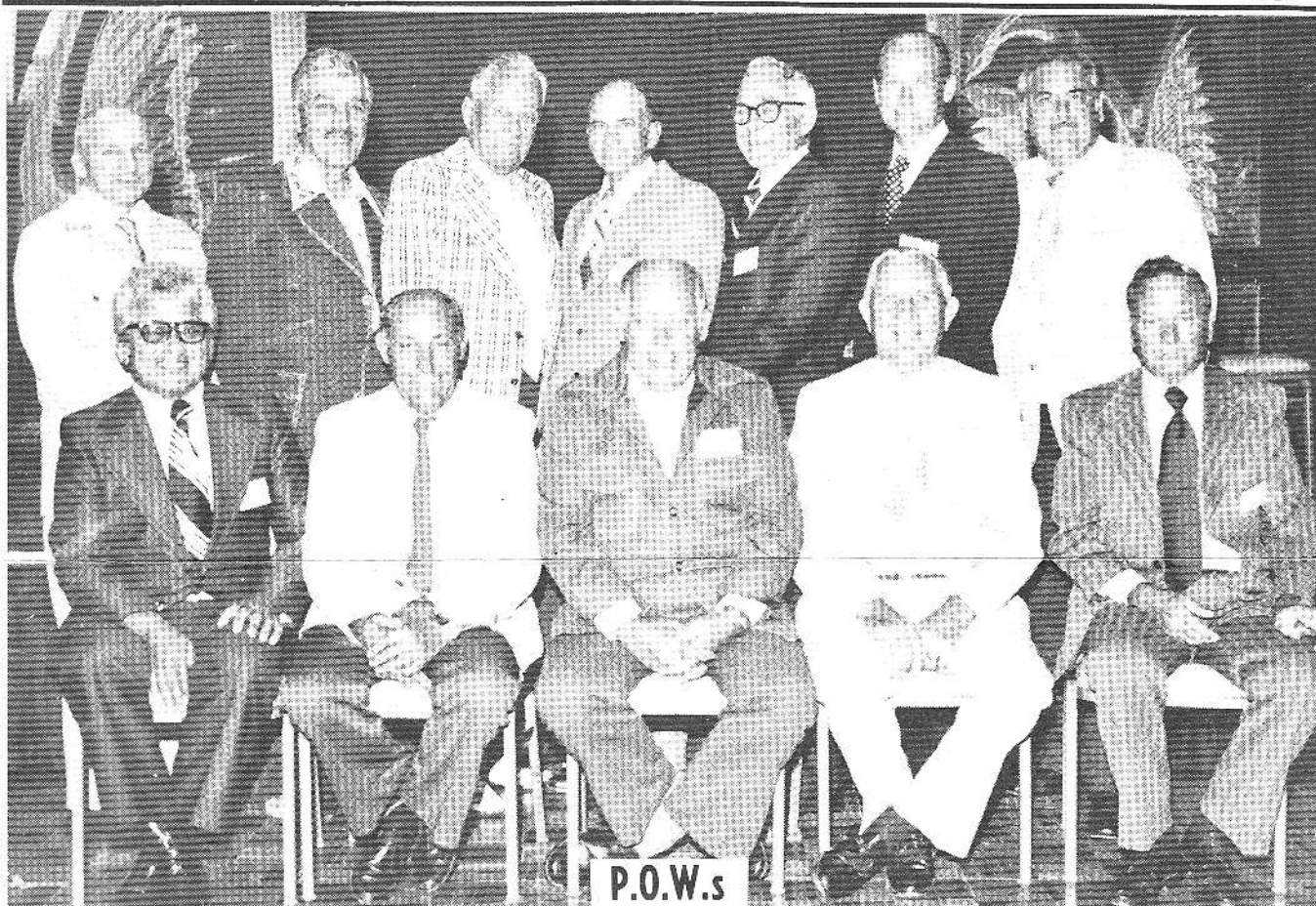
441st Sub-Depot



Pene's Pub in action. Gene Letalien talking to Glenn and Lois Boyce, with Col. Tom Gunn and Lloyd Guzek standing by.



Western Division co-chairman Gene Letalien presents a painting of "Destiny's Child" to Maj. John D. McCord for the Air Force Academy.



M/Gen. Wray presents the "Order of the Rigid Digit" to new Life Members. Life members from l to r are: SMS (Ret) John R. Paget, Col. (Ret) Harold E. Walker, LTC (Ret) Marion Havelaar, S/Sgt (Ret)

Lewis Simpson, Glenn V. Boyce, Albert I. Spieler, and Harry L. Knowles. Not present for the picture were Donald T. Ballou, M/Sgt (Ret) William D. Spoffard and Leon Croulebois.

Reunion Members, We need Your Help

We ran into one big snag in trying to bring our members a real reunion issue of The Ragged Irregular this time. The official photographer did not get our group shots back to the Association until the end of August, more than a month late, and there was no identification of members. Pictures without names don't get the job done since many of our readers haven't seen their old buddies since the war, and they want to update their memories.

As you have noticed, there is white space below pictures where the identification normally runs. What we want each

member pictured to do is to provide us with his identification. Locate yourself in the shots and drop a note to the editor at Box 909, Auburn, Ala. 36830. Be precise. Say for example, "I'm the number three man from the left in the second row of the 324th sqdn." The rows are numbered with the seated row as the first row. Also identify as many of your buddies as you can incase they forget to reply.

In the next issue we'll print the identifications and you can paste them in the space allowed in this issue, so you will have a permanent record.

California State Rally Round Feb. 5

Western Division members should start making plans for a California State Rally Round to be held in Anaheim, Cal., at the Jolly Roger Inn.

Additional details will be carried in the next Ragged Irregular. Members who

w-sh to attend are asked to contact the Western Division Secretary-Treasurer, M/Sgt. George W. Parks (Ret), 109 Wilshire Ave., Vallejo, Cal. 94590. Phone Area Code 707-642-6392.

From The Editor's Desk...

Paul C. Burnett Box 909 Auburn, AL 36830

In addition to enjoying a super National Reunion at Colorado Springs, the editor held "mini-reunions" with two original 91st members recently--Bob Abb, 323rd Sqdn bombardier, and James D. "Jim" Baird, 322 Sqdn pilot.

We saw Abb, who flew with Birdsong in Delta Rebel II, on our return from Colorado Springs, when our route took us thru Sherman, Texas, where he has a sporting goods distributorship. Bob has been seriously ill for several years but is now doing fine and looking great. Guests from overseas kept him from attending the reunion but he and Mollie and guests were planning a later trip through the west.

Jim and Jane Baird stopped by Auburn on their way home to Wisconsin after attending the Disabled American Veterans convention in Miami Beach. Jim, who piloted Hell's Angels for the 322nd, is the Wisconsin veterans representative for the U. S. Department of Labor.

We had not seen Jim since June, 1943.



Jim and Jane Baird and the editor

We learned at the Reunion that William S. Munger, 324th pilot of the "Great Speckled Bird" died of a heart attack recently at his home in Michigan.

John E. Blackowiak of Beaver, Wisc., also died recently, but we have no details.

The Western Division has been given a 100 lb. practice bomb (empty) which is being repainted for display at Group get togethers.