



The Ragged Irregular

91st Bomb Group (H) Memorial Association Newsletter

Vol. 11 No. 3

October, 1978

Another Great Memphis Reunion!

Memphis again proved a tremendous magnet for 91st-ers, with more than 300 on hand for the National Reunion July 19-21. Hosts Joe and Mary Gagliano and Frank Donofrio and Madeline Henders, and Eastern Division committee members Paul Chryst, Joe Camelleri, Bob Gerstemeier, and Joe Giambrone had put together a terrific packet of entertainment and nostalgia that convinced everyone that 91st get-togethers get better every time! You who stayed at home really missed one!

Group activities began with a tour down the Mississippi River aboard the Memphis Showboat, with entertainment, dinner, and dancing enjoyed in addition to the river views. The entire boat was reserved for the 91st.

A tour of Memphis which took in the area of the Martin Luther King slaying, and a visit to Graceland, Elvis Presley's home, wound up with a visit to the Memphis Belle. The old aircraft, awaiting refurbishing and the construction of a museum to house it, was swamped by members clambering through it to view again remembered B-17 duty posts of 35 years ago.

The group on Thursday toured the Schlitz Brewery and had dinner at the Brewery's Riverboat dining area.

One of the most impressive things to many members was the fantastic police escort that led the 91st buses on their tours. Host Joe Gagliano, formerly chief of detectives and assistant police chief in Memphis, now Chief of Police in the Memphis suburb of Germantown, had arranged a motorcycle escort that sometimes numbered as many as 10 vehicles. With lights flashing and sirens screaming they led the buses past thousands of motorists and spectators who could not imagine who the VIPs were with such an escort.

Host Frank Donofrio arranged and conducted a special visit for 91st wives to St. Jude's Childrens Hospital, world famous for its work and research in children's dis-



A taste of Memphis hospitality opened reunion activities--a river trip aboard the Memphis Showboat, with dinner and dancing, and watching the moon over the Mississippi.

eases normally considered incurable.

The business meeting of Friday, July 21, was presided over by Col. Tom Gunn, vice president, in the absence of Gen S.T. Wray, who was undergoing treatment at the Eglin Field hospital and was unable to attend. There were 115 voting members present (2 national officers, 60 Eastern Division members and 53 Western Division members.) This constituted a quorum.

Members gave the Eastern Division Reunion Committee members and the local hosts a standing ovation to express their gratitude for the tremendous efforts in producing a super reunion.

The Secretary and the Treasurer from each division reported on the status of their respective divisions, with the East reporting a balance of \$972.63 and the West reporting a balance of \$2,576.29. These are monies representing operating funds for day-to-day operation and do not include memorial donations.

Included in new business was a discussion of future reunion locations and dates. The members voted that future reunions be held during the months of July-October, with the officers selecting the sites as in the past. The members also voted that the Association should have a directory with a loose-leaf notebook format to include a copy of the By-Laws. This would facilitate annual updating at a nominal cost of about \$30. The last item under new business was a discussion of a proposed revision of the By-Laws, primary features of which were to establish a unified, national association in lieu of a divided (East-West) organization and to codify the positions of 1st Vice President and 2nd Vice President established by vote at the 1976 National Reunion. The members decided properly that a revision of such magnitude and importance should be submitted by mail to all voting members, thereby giving all an opportunity to examine, comment and vote on the proposal.

Election of officers was conducted under the terms of the 1968-69 By-Laws. Prior to the election the members unanimously acclaimed a resolution that Stanley T. Wray, M/Gen USAF (Ret) be honored as President Emeritus of this Association. The officers elected were: Thomas H. Gunn, President; Paul C. Burnett, Editor-Historian; Eastern Division Chairman, Co-chairman, and Secretary-Treasurer, respectively, W.W. Hill, Jack Fearheller, and John C. Flinn, Jr.; Western Division Chairman, Co-chairman, and Secretary-Treasurer respectively, John R. McCombs, Glenn V. Boyce and George W. Parks.

Wrapping up the fabulous four days was the reunion banquet and dance at the Rivermont Friday night. The reunion committee had a wonderfully decorated ballroom, delicious food, and a smooth band providing WW II tunes, to climax the affair.

Receiving the mug for having travelled the greatest distance to attend were the Richard McCoys of Lynden, Washington, though there was close competition from several other Washington couples.

Ten 91st-ers became Life Members at the closing banquet. They were Vernon Dion, Lloyd Guzek, James Harrison, L.G. Dillon, John Taylor, Ralph Brown, Argo O. Giese, Stanley F. Waslaski, Paul C. Burnett, and David L. Hohler, Jr. (Associate Member).

If you did not make this one you should begin planning now to be on hand in 1980. They just keep getting better and better!

Attending were: Joe & Mary Gagliano, Frank Donofrio, Madeline Henders, Paul & Nancy Chryst, Bob & Trudy Gerstemeier, Joe & Mary Jane Giambrone, Mr. & Mrs. George J. Amrhein, Mr. Hale Autry, Judy Jernigan, Mr. & Mrs. Lamond Bailey, Squire Baker family, Mr. & Mrs. Nick Bankovsky, James O. Bedwell family, Quinten Bennett, Col. George P. Birdsong, Mr. & Mrs. Ben Borostowski, Bruce Bowles, Mr. & Mrs. Glenn Boyce, Mr. & Mrs. Paul C. Burnett, M/Sgt. & Mrs. Arnold W. Brown, Mr. & Mrs. Ralph Brown.

Col. & Mrs. Vernon W. Bryant, Mrs. Goldie Cahill, Doris Cleveland, Sen. & Mrs. James L. Caldwell, John Campbell, Edwin M. Carmichael, Hubert Carpenter, Mr. & Mrs. Robert M. Cattin, Earl M. Cherry, Sam Cipola family, Mr. & Mrs. Vern Clabaugh, Shan Clayton, Jr., Mr. & Mrs. Donald Connell, Mr. & Mrs. John Conway, Burdette Cox, Mr. & Mrs. Faber H. Cripps, John Dean, Mr. & Mrs. Pete DeBoy, Mr. & Mrs. Emil DeQuardo, Mr. & Mrs. Elmer Diethorn, William Dietrich family, Mr. & Mrs. Sam Digristina.

Levi G. Dillon, Vernon L. Dion, Mr. & Mrs. George Dpwell, Wilbur C. Duemler, Mr. & Mrs. James E. Dumouchel, Mr. & Mrs. Aulden Dunn, Mr. & Mrs. Norman C. Eatinger, Mr.

& Mrs. O.W. Farwell, Mr. Jack Fearheller & daughter Ginny, Mr. & Mrs. Clayton Ferree, Mr. & Mrs. John C. Flinn, Jr., Mr. & Mrs. Gordon Fowler, Mr. & Mrs. Joe Franke, Mr. & Mrs. Joe Frankie, Mr. & Mrs. Roy Fratz, Mr. & Mrs. E.M. Gaston, Ed Gates & sons, Mr. & Mrs. Robert S. Gerald, Mr. & Mrs. Leonard L. Gibbs, Mr. & Mrs. Argo O. Giese, Mr. & Mrs. Edward C. Greene, Col. & Mrs. Tom Gunn, Mr. & Mrs. Lloyd Guzek, Mr. & Mrs. Pete Hamner, James Harris family, Mr. & Mrs. J.A. Harrison.

Mr. & Mrs. Rawland R. Harrison, Lt. Col. & Mrs. M.H. Havelaar, Mr. & Mrs. Gaylord Henryson, Mr. & Mrs. W.A. Hester, Mr. & Mrs. Rollie Hill, Mr. & Mrs. Robert M. Hoffmann, Mr. & Mrs. Lyde C. Holder, Mr. & Mrs. Lew Holland, H.E. Hovermill family, Ed F. Jackman family, A.J. Jolly, Barnard Kajewski family, Mr. & Mrs. W.J. Kaltenbach, Col. & Mrs. F.S. Kamykowski, Mr. & Mrs. Charles Kirkham, Mr. & Mrs. Lauri E. Kivimaki, Mr. & Mrs. Matthew Kryjak, Mr. & Mrs. John Kurylo, M/Sgt. & Mrs. Eugene Letalien, Hank Lilley, Harold Loch family, Mr. & Mrs. Howell B. Loper, Mr. & Mrs. Ted Lundberg, Mr. & Mrs. Leo L. Lyons, Mr. & Mrs. Rocco J. Maiorca, Andy Manzano.

Lt. Col. & Mrs. John McCombs, Mr. & Mrs. Richard McCoy, Mr. & Mrs. William G. McCrea, Paul G. McDuffee, Mr. & Mrs. Bill McGavern, Mr. & Mrs. Fred Mellon, John W. Mikesell family, Mr. & Mrs. Carrol K. Milam, H.N. Mitchamore family, Mr. & Mrs. Luther H. Mitchell, Robert K. Morgan, Mr. & Mrs. William Moskowitz, Mr. & Mrs. Don Moucka, Lauren H. Mummert family, Mr. & Mrs. Matt Munding, Jr., Mr. & Mrs. Julian A. Murdoch, Mr. & Mrs. Richard E. Murphy, Mr. & Mrs. Orlo Natvig, Mr. & Mrs. Arlon Nessa, Mr. & Mrs. E. Lee Nichols, Jr., Orlo Notstad, SMS & Mrs. John R. Paget, M/Sgt. & Mrs. George W. Parks, Lt. Col. John R. Parsons, Mr. & Mrs. Warren L. Paschke, Mr. & Mrs. Ed Peacock, Mr. & Mrs. John D. Pearson, Mr. & Mrs. Aubin R. Pene, Mr. & Mrs. Randy Petersen, D. Fred Pilcher, Mr. & Mrs. Joe Potts.

Mr. & Mrs. Robert J. Powers, Mr. & Mrs. W.R. Rabedaux, Harry R. Raihl family, Mr. & Mrs. Charles L. Ross, Mr. & Mrs. Robert Rountre, Mr. & Mrs. Russell Ruth, Mr. & Mrs. Vernon Rutter, Jr., H. Garrett Saunders, Mr. & Mrs. Roy Sheehan, Mr. & Mrs. Lewis Simpson, Mr. & Mrs. Bob Smith, Mr. & Mrs. Lawrence C. Smith, Mr. & Mrs. Leonard Sowers, Tony L. Starcer, Mr. & Mrs. Wallace Stark, Mr. & Mrs. Erwin Steele, Mr. & Mrs. George N. Sturtz, Mr. & Mrs. John Taylor, Mr. & Mrs. William H. Turcotte, Roy Van Dyke family, John B. Ventura, Col. H.S. Walker, Mr. & Mrs. Stan Waslaski, C.E. Winchell, Harold L. Wilson, Russell W. Wilson, Mr. & Mrs. Ted Wyzkoski, Troy L. Young, Mr. & Mrs. Edward Haller, Whitmal W. Hill.

Shoo Shoo Baby Gets Nose Job

Restoration of Shoo Shoo Baby is proceeding steadily at Dover, Del., with the first major structural work of attaching a new nose section to the main fuselage completed. Members of the 512th Military Airlift Wing (Associate) (Air Force Reserve) are carrying out the two-year task of bring the plane back to full flying status as a community service project.

The sheet metal work was performed by TSgt Lucien Lefebvre, a Reservist, during his off duty times while on his two weeks annual tour. As a civilian Lefebvre is a metal worker with Norfolk Naval Air Rework Facility in Virginia. The new nose was provided by the Air Force Museum.

Already the restoration group is planning for the replacement of the nose art that adorned Shoo Shoo Baby, and the 91st's famous nose art specialist Tony Starcer has volunteered for the job.

In a strange coincidence the man who took the only known photograph of Shoo Shoo Baby as she limped into Malmo, Sweden, recently discovered the plane again at Dover. In 1944 Lt. Chris Tack was executive officer for the internees in Sweden. As part of his job he would go to fighters and bombers who diverted to Sweden, remove the secret black boxes and other classified documents, and take a photo of the plane.

After the war Tack continued his career with the Air Force, and retired as a C-141 flight examiner at Dover AFB in 1970. In September Lt. Col. Tack ran across the plane in a hangar at Dover. He still has the original picture taken over 34 years ago.



Front row, 1 to r: Orlow Notstad, James Harrison, Joseph Gagliano, Lyde Holder, William McCrea, Lamond Bailey. Second row: John Kurlyo, Bernard Kajewski, Arlon Nessa, Argo O. Giese, Luther Mitchell, Wilbur Duemler, John Campbell, Ralph Brown, Col. F.S. Kamykowski. Third row: John Parsons, Arnold Brown, Rudy Steele, Gaylord Henryson, Wallace Stark, Quinten Bennett, Squire Baker, Vern Clabaugh, Don Moucka.



Front row, 1 to r: Fred Pilcher, Howell Loper, Robert Hoffman, Sam Digristina, Aulden Durn, Clayton Ferree, Sam Cipolla. Second row: Bill McGavern, Richard Murphy, Joe Frankie, Emil DeQuardo, Edward Greene, Babedaux, Matthew Kryjak, Ted Wyzkoski. Third row: W.W. Hill, Peter Hoffman, Harold Mitchamore, Ed Jackman, Randall Petersen, Charles Kirkham. Fourth row: Lewis Simpson, Ted Lundberg, Richard McCoy, George Dowell, Bill Dietrich, James Dumouchel, Lauri Kivimaki, Ed Gates.



324 Squadron

Bob Smith, John Ventura, Andy Manzano, Fred Mellon, Donald Connell, Joe Giambrone. Second row: Matt Munding, Bruce Bowles, Rollie Hill, Roy Van Dyke, Col. Tom Gurn, Lt. Col. John McCombs. Third row: Russell Wilson, Lawrence Smith, Lauren Mummert, Lee Nichols, Pete DeBoy, Lloyd Guzek, Warren Paschke. Fourth row: Orlo Natvig, Norman Eatinger, George Parks, John Taylor, Hubert Carpenter.



401st Squadron

Front, Harry Hovermill. First row: Robert Powers, Rocco Maiorca, Vernon Dion, Stan Waslaski, Nick Bankovsky, Eugene Letalien, Russell Ruth, Roy Fratz, Burdette Cox. Second row: Aubin Pene, Faber Cripps, Louis Holland, John Paget, John Conway, Marion Havelaar, Paul Chryst. Third row: Glenn Boyce, John Flinn, George Parks, John Parson, E.M. Gaston, Bob Gerstemeier, Paul McDuffee.



Front Row: Col. Vernon Bryant, W.W. Hill, Col. F.S. Kamykowski. Second row: Tony Starcer, James Bedwell, Faber Cripps, Robert Cattin.



Eastern Division members becoming Life Members at the reunion were: (Treasurer Joe Giambrone), Vernon Dion, Lloyd Guzek, James Harrison.

Western Division members becoming Life Members at the reunion were Ralph Brown, Argo O. Giese, Stanley F. Waslaski, (Sec. George Parks), Paul C. Burnett.

Pacific States Rally Round Set

A California State Rally Round will be held on the week end of April 28,29,30 at the Jolly Roger Inn in Anaheim. Details of the event will be given in the January Ragged Irregular. Area members should make plans now to attend this annual affair.



Receiving the mug from Col. Tom Gunn for having travelled the greatest distance to attend were the Richard McCoys of Lynden, Washington.



Scrapbooks and photographs always drew a crowd at the hospitality room.



Host Frank Donofrio welcomes 91st-ers at the Friday night banquet climaxing a great reunion. Back row, Joe Gagliano, Madeline Henders, Mary Gagliano.



Old 322nd buddies swapping stories



Eastern Division chairman Paul Chryst presents hostess Mary Gagliano with a gift of appreciation for an outstanding job.



Waiting to board busses for a tour of the city.

EDITOR'S NOTE: The second installment of Flt. Lt. E.M.C. Rowe's account of the first 91st mission will be carried in the next issue of the R/I.

From The Editor's Desk...

Paul C. Burnett Box 909 Auburn, Al. 36830

At our July national reunion in Memphis, General Wray was unanimously acclaimed President Emeritus. Col. Tom Gunn succeeds Gen. Wray as President. General Wray states: "The 91st today is the most viable association of its kind to emerge from World War II. I'm proud of it; I believe you're proud of it. I urge you to continue supporting your elected officers. Although I've been 'kicked upstairs' like the Chairman of the Board, that doesn't mean these are my final words to you, for I shall continue to associate with the greatest group of guys ever, so long as my health permits. God bless!"

Tom Gunn writes: "I appreciate the honor you have bestowed on me; I shall strive to merit your confidence. My goals are simply to maintain harmony, communication and esprit de corps in this great association."

Eastern Division members who have not yet paid their dues for 1978 should mail your \$5 to the new Eastern Division Secretary-Treasurer John C. Flinn, Jr., P.O. Box 131, McClure, Pa. 17841.

Western Division members who have not paid 1978 dues should mail their \$5 to the Western Division Secretary-Treasurer, M/Sgt George W. Parks, USAF (Ret), 109 Wilshire Ave., Vallejo, Ca. 94590.

If you have not paid your dues for 1978 you will NOT receive the new up-dated membership directory of both divisions.

Hard-working Jack Fearheller, a Life Member who has made every 91st reunion, was elected co-chairman of the Eastern Division at the Memphis reunion. Jack had undergone open heart surgery shortly before the reunion, and upon his return home his doctor insisted that he slow down and give up some of his many activities. So Jack has been forced to resign his co-chairmanship. For the present W.W. Hill, chairman, will handle the post alone.

At the Memphis reunion in July it was reported that all bills received had been paid and there was money remaining in the escrow account. As is usually the case in projects of this nature, there are unforeseen expenses. The original estimate of \$3,010 was affected significantly by

the ensuing rate of exchange of the U.S. dollar. The "final" known expenses are \$3,238 stonemasonry, \$1,218 landscaping, and \$344 (D.Crow: U.K. representative handling arrangements) for a total \$4,800. Contributions to date total only \$4,114, a deficit of \$686.

Members pledged \$4,931; that was close! Unfortunately, many who pledged forgot to contribute or couldn't remember the address to which the donation should be sent. If you forgot, or if you would like to contribute an additional amount, please send your donation (payable to the 91st Bomb Group (H) Memorial Assn., Inc.) to Tom Gunn, 1024 Woodland Drive, Arlington, Texas 76012. The final listing of donors will be printed in the January R/I.

Thanks to the great efforts of Joe Franke the group shots of the squadrons at the National Reunion have something we haven't been able to accomplish since 1968--the identification of members! The commercial photographer hired for the occasion had to cancel at the last moment because of the death of his father, and the picture taking fell in the lap of the editor. Joe, with much experience working with several members of his family who are professional photographers, did the posing and identification, leaving the editor only the easy work of snapping the shot.

Probably many of you did not receive the military campaign medals due you before you left the service. They can still be obtained if you will send your name, service number, approximate dates of service, and copies of any documents supporting the claim.

Send to Military Campaign Medals,
Director, Air Force Records Center
9700 Page Boulevard
St. Louis, Mo. 63132

President Emeritus Gen. S.T. Wray, who could not be with us in Memphis because he was undergoing medical treatment, has since suffered a stroke, but is making a good recovery. No one has done more to make our group a success and no one has worked harder over the years for the 91st. Show him you care!

The considerable delay in Eastern Division members receiving the July R/I will not occur again. Future mailings will be done simultaneously.