



The Ragged Irregular

91st Bombardment Group (H) Newsletter

Vol. 15 No. 3


October, 1982

It REALLY WAS Great In Dayton


Exceeding even the optimistic expectations of the planners, almost 400 members and guests made the 1982 National Reunion in Dayton September 2-3-4 the "biggest one yet!" The central location, the attraction of the Air Force Museum, and the dedication of the "Living Tree Memorial" all played a big part. Nearly 80 persons were attending their FIRST 91st get-together. Reunion chairmen Bill Cornwell and Don Bader put together an outstanding reunion, and the Imperial House staff was most helpful.

Although official registration was not scheduled until Thursday, Sept. 2, many members checked into the Imperial House North on Wednesday, anxious to meet old friends and to get the festivities under way a day early. Wednesday evening saw groups of 91sters already swapping stories in every corner of the headquarters. And as usual at Memorial Association events the wives were enjoying it every bit as much as the members!

Thursday was a continuously busy registration day, with members continuing to check in long past the scheduled closing time of 5 p.m. The hospitality room was a beehive of activity all day with old friends visiting and the many displays, pictures and



'Always Remembered'

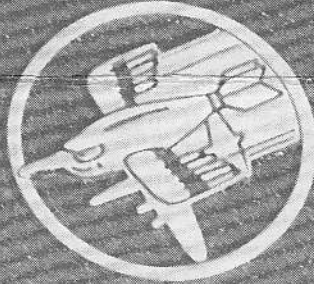


91st BOMB GROUP (H)

322 Sqdn. 323 Sqdn. 324 Sqdn. 401 Sqdn.

AND SUPPORTING UNITS

441st Sub Depot 1st Station Comp. 1996 Ordnance 1204 QM 863 CWS 556 APU 982 MP	243 Med. Disp. (AVN) 39 ABCp. Hq. & Hq. 2024 Eng. FF. 206 Finance 18 Weather Red Cross RAF
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First 8th AF Bomb Group To Complete 100 Missions, 340 Total Missions.
 Hamm Mission 4 March 1943, Oschersleben Mission 11 January 1944
 Distinguished Unit Citations: Most Enemy Aircraft Claimed
 Destroyed of All 8th Airforce Bomb Groups (420)

They Flew With Pride They Served With Honor

AF Station 121 Bassingbourn, England Sept. 1942 - July 1945

This marker was dedicated at the Air Force Museum's 'Living Tree Memorial Park' by the 91st Bomb Group Memorial Association at the Dayton National Reunion September 3.

scrapbooks drawing crowds. A poolside cocktail party climaxed the evening.

On Friday the group went to the Air Force Museum for dedication of the "Living Tree Memorial" plaque and a tour of the Air Force Museum. The "Living Tree Memorials" constitute a park of oak trees with organizational plaques, adjacent to the Air Force Museum buildings. At the present time approximately a dozen units have memorials in place. The tree and plaque dedicated by the 91st is the nearest memorial to the 8th Air Force statue and memorial, which was dedicated in October. The memorial was proposed by group vice-president Sam Cipolla at the 1980 San Diego Reunion. President Tom Gunn appointed Sam chairman of the project, and Sam spent many hours, much travel, and efforts beyond the call of duty getting the memorial set up. Design of the plaque was a joint project of Sam and the editor of The Ragged Irregular. The memorial costs came from Memorial Association funds on hand.

The Air Force Museum tour which followed the memorial dedication was outstanding. Planes from the very first formation of the Air Corps through those used in very recent actions were on display, including many experimental models. One of the star attractions was the B-17G which will be replaced by the 91st plane Shoo Shoo (Shoo) Baby as soon as restoration is complete. Numerous pictures of 91st activities at Bassingbourn and personal articles contributed by 91st members made the displays even more meaningful. Anyone who has any interest in the development of the Air Force should tour the museum.

Transportation from the Imperial House to the Museum was provided by Wright-Patterson AFB, with eight buses assigned to the task. When the return trip was scheduled for mid-afternoon, many 91sters felt they had not been able to see everything they were interested in and returned the next day to complete their sight-seeing.

Friday night was picture show night for the group. Mike Leister, who is in charge of the restoration of Shoo Shoo Baby at Dover, Del., gave a slide presentation of the progress being made on the plane, and explained the procedures to the group. In addition, films of "the Memphis Belle" and other WW II combat movies were shown.

Saturday morning the official biennial group business meeting was held. In the election of officers for the next two years Tom Gunn was re-elected Group president, Sam Cipolla was named first vice-president, Glenn Boyce, second vice-president, Paul C. "Cliff" Burnett re-elected editor and historian, and M/Sgt. George W. Parks re-elected secretary-treasurer.

No decision was made in respect to the 1984 reunion site. Joe Frankie proposed that it be held in Brownsville, Texas and offered to honcho the affair there, pointing out the nearness to the Confederate Air Force Museum and to tourist attractions in Mexico. Other sites suggested were Colorado Springs, Reno, Seattle, and Long Beach. It was decided to open the site choice to the entire membership and to solicit suggestions and votes from all 91sters. The basic requirements are sites west of the Mississippi River, adequate facilities, easy access, and someone willing to take on the responsibility of planning the event and making all arrangements needed. Volunteers should contact Sec.-Treas. George Parks with their suggestions as soon as possible, since considerable lead time is required for a successful reunion.

Climaxing the reunion was the group banquet Saturday evening. Receiving the mug for travelling the greatest distance to attend were Don and Babs Pescot, of Buriton, England. Don was a member of the RAF attached to the 91st intelligence unit. Don also received his Rigid Digit award for becoming a Life Member of the Memorial Association. The couple were visiting reunion hosts Bill and Thelma Cornwell. Bill and Don worked together at Bassingbourn.

Others receiving the Rigid Digit for becoming Life Members were Charles M. Kirkham, James F. Daley, Robert DeGeorge, Robert J. Powers, Harold R. Harding, and John J. Ondrovic.

Recognized for being the largest single unit who worked together at Bassingbourn represented at the reunion were 13 members of the 323rd sqdn. ground crew staff: George Dowell, Dick McCoy, Bab Waddell, Howell Loper, Leo Lyons, Bruce Lythjohan, David Lloyd, Harold Mitchamore, A.J. Sopata, Aulden Dunn, W.W. Hill, Lewis 'Suitcase' Simpson, and Bob Christman.

Aubin Pene, whose "Pene's Pub" is the most popular spot at most 91st reunions,

presented a beautiful hand-made B-17 pipe holder to the editor of The Ragged Irregular for his service to the group.

Attending the Dayton Reunion were: Daniel & Esther Abeles, Matt & Irene Abramson, Steve Armand, Homer R. Anderson, Joseph & Mary Backsman, Don & Leah Bader, Lamond (Buck) & Lillian Bailey, James A. Ballard, Donald T. Ballou, Armand & Peggy Battista, Donald L. Beal, James, Betty & Linda Bedwell, Charles T. & Frances Bell, James F. Belville, Max E. & Janet Bender, Gunder V. & Ruth Berg, James E. & Viola Black, Charles D. Booth, Glenn V. & Lois Boyce, John J. & Claire Boyce, Charles R. Braman.

Arnold W., Charlis Brown & Candice Bennett, James A. Brown, Daniel Bryla, Paul C. & Lorraine Burnett, Mrs. Otto W. (Goldie) Cahill, Donald E. & Amy Caldwell, Joseph A. Camelleri, Walter R. & Jean Cameron, John A. & Lois Capron, Hubert B. & Patsy Carpenter, Paul & Nancy Chryst, Sam J. & Mary Cipolla, Phillip & Anne Cipolla, Charles E. (Red) & Mary Jane Cliburn, Clarence A. & Irene Cluck, John C. & Gertrude Conway, William J. & Thelma Cornwell, John F. Coyne, Eugene L. & Betty Cruse, James F. & Katherine Daley.

Joseph C. & Norma Dawson, Clyde E. & Mildred DeBaun, Harold R. DeBolt, Robert & Georgette DeGeorge, Emil F. & Maryann DeQuardo, Levi G. Dillon, Vernon Dion, Robert L. Dorcy, George E. & Margaret Dowell, Wilbur C. & Lu Duemler, James E. & Evelyn Dumochel, Aulden N. & Ramona Dunn, Lewis P. Ensign, Ferrell H. (Stud) Evans, Hilary (Bud) Evers Jr., Virgil G. Faust, Clayton & Freda Ferree, Leonard Figie, Lester Vollmer, James D. & Ruth Fletcher, John C. & Kay Flinn Jr., Joseph & Roberta Franke, Joe Frankie Jr., Roy H. & Lois Fratz, John C. Friend, Wayne B. (Tex) & Connie Frye, Lawrence E. & Betty Gaddis, Avery O. Gage, Edward J. Gallagher Jr., Fred & Corilee Gardner.

Vincent J. & Louise Garofalo, Elon M. & Betty Gaston, Edward C. Gates, Ted Gates, Elmer Gettis, Joseph M. & Mary Jane Giambrone, Argo O. & Lillian Giese, Howard A. & Kaye Groombridge, Jack R. & Judy Grosh, Carl A. Gundersen II, Thomas H. & Emalee Gunn, V.T. & Johnny Lou Williams, Lloyd & Millie Guzek, Edward & Helen Haller, John D. & Catherine Hammer, John T. Hardin, Harold R. Harding, Marion H. & Patsy Havelaar, Gaylord & Colleen Henryson, Maurice J. & Betty Herman, Rollie C. & Mary Hill, Whitmal W. & Jacque Hill, Harry E. Hovermill, Robert D. & Wilma Iiams, John & Evelyn Irak Jr.

Edward F. & Dorothy Jackman, Ted P. & Betty Janus, James L. Johns, Kenneth V. & Bernice Johns, A. J. Jolly, Bernard J., Esther, & Kathy Kajewski, Willis J. & Christine Kaltenbach, Frank S. & Anne Kamykowski, George A. & June Kemnitz, Charles M. & Dorothy Kirkham, Lauri E. & Kerttu Kivimaki, John A. Klotz, Horace Knight, Richard E. & Doris Knutelsky, Nicholas R. Kothe, Edward J. & Mary Kriegel, Robert A. Krusen, Matthew & Helen Kryjak, John & Madeline Kurylo, Michael Leister Jr., Michael D. Leister III, Richard D. & Sally Libby, Harold, Harriet & Scott Lieberman, Paul J., Jeanie, & Helen Limm, David Lloyd, Harold P. & Exie Loch, Howell L. & Irene Loper.

Leo L. & Katherine Lyons, Bruce & Marjorie Lythjohan, Rocco J. & Francis Maiorca, Louis W. & Mary Malone, Harold I. & Jean Mannon, Bonnie Sandlin, Robert V. & Rose Manson, Andrew & Lorraine Manzano, Norbert G. & Dolores Mathias, Richard W. & Margaret McCoy, Paul G. McDuffee, Bobbye Brinson, George S. McEwen, William A. & Virginia McGavern, Willard F. & Elaine Meier, John W. & Dolores Mikesell, Dolores Thomas, Jimmie D. Mills Jr., Harold N. & Mae Mitchamore, Bill Mitchamore, Luther H. & Betty Mitchell.

Virgil I. Mott, Lauren H. & Dorothy Mummert, Julian A. & Mary Ellen Murdoch, Richard E. & Lorraine Murphy, Arlon A. & Celia Nessa, E. Lee & Betty Nichols Jr., John J. & Martha Ondrovic, Robert C. Opp, Jack R. & Norma Paget, Helen Clanton, Marion E. & Florence Painter, Paul Painter, Philip T. & Juanita Palmer, George W. & Marian Parks, John R. & Genevieve Mai Parsons, Edward A. & Lenore Peacock, Aubin R. & Jackie Pene, Frank J. & Catherine Pendergast, Don & Babs Pescot, Leonard V. & Edna Petersen, Charles J. & Arlene Phillips, Thomas & Ellon Phillips, Clifford O. Pierce.

Ammon H. & Ardith Powell, Robert J. & Alyce Powers, Robert & Charlotte Puls, Wesley R. & Beverly Rabedaux, Wilbur D. & Grace Renz, Michael Rheam, Charles L. & Ella Ross, Vernon & Wylene Rutter, Willis C. & Ann Schilly, Casimier A. Sidlowski, Lewis & Malearine Simpson, Seymore Simpson, Armando J. & Norma Sinibaldo, Howard E. Sisk, Sam L. & Georgia Sommers, Anthony J. & Genevieve Sopata, Robert C. & Maxine Sponsel, Wallace & Opal Stark, George N. & Enid Sturtz, James & Mary Pool, Larry & Mary Lou Sylvester, John & Peggy Taylor, William D. & Margie Thissell, Roy Howard & Alice Tolbert.

Roy W. & Barbara Van Dyke, Susan Van Dyke, Frank I. & Mary Vara, John B. Ventura, Emil J. & Mary Ann Viskocil, Ambrose & Lillian Kuchinka, Robert M. & Bev Waddell, Smiley

& Mildred Wagner, Paul H. & Marie Wahler, Stanley F. & Luella Waslaski, Jack M. & Ellen Webb, Howard F. & Beverly Weber, Herbert M. & Ilse Weinberger, Charles V. & Sunny Welbe Cecil E. & Ann Williams, John N. Williams Jr, Howard L. Wilson, Russell W. Wilson, James H. & Bernice Witter, James A. & Emmy Wood, Troy C. Young, William J. Zauner, Fred & Helen Sublett, Becky Messick.

The dedication of the 91st "Living Tree Memorial" at the Air Force Museum was paramount in the choice of Dayton as the 1982 National Reunion site. In a moving and impressive ceremony the tree and marker were formally turned over to the Museum on Friday, September 3. Group president Tom Gunn spoke this prayer at the close of the transfer:

"Heavenly Father, we are honored and grateful for the opportunity to gather in tribute to those comrades who already have been called to Your house.

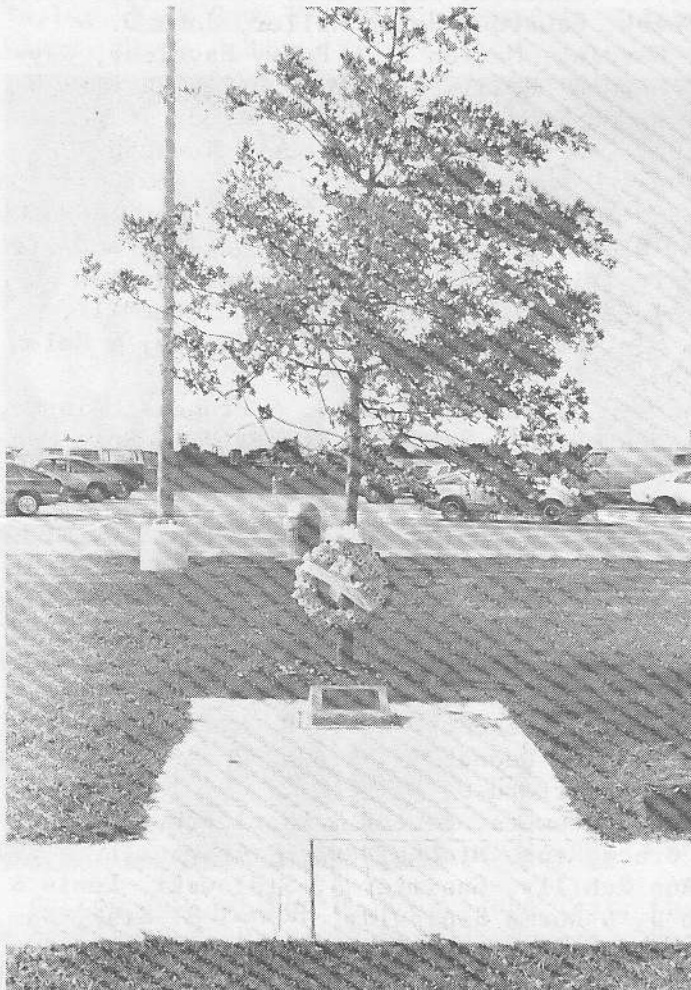
"Thank you, Father, for this gathering and the camaraderie we are sharing.

"It has been forty years since we sallied into battle, a battle which was fought in Your name and for our nation and for our loved ones. In fighting that battle we developed a bond of friendship, of love, with each other that transcends any emotion in any other relationship. And it is because of that feeling that we are extremely grateful for this memorial.

"We cannot help but be aware that the years are passing rapidly, that before too long we shall join our comrades in the greatest reunion ever.

"We thank You for this memorial.

"In Christ's name, we ask You to forgive our sins and bless us as we pay tribute now and forever more to those who have gone before us. Amen."



The Living Tree Memorial dedicated September 3 at the Air Force Museum.



A Museum official thanks 91st members for the addition to the Memorial Park. Immediately behind speaker (l to r), Sam Cipolla, project coordinator, and Col. Tom Gunn, Memorial Association president.





Bottom row: Homer Anderson, Gaylord Henryson, Paul C. Burnett, Don Bader, Luther H. Mitchell, Wilbur Duemler, Edward A. Peacock, Louis Malone, Nicholas R. Kothe.

Second row: Lamond 'Buck' Bailey, James H. Witter, Arlon A. Nessa, John T. Hardin, Robert C. Sponsel, Ammon H. Powell, Charles T. Bell, John C. Friend. Third Row:

Bernard J. Kajewski, Julian Murdock, Howard E. Sisk, Wallace Stark, George A. Kemnitz, Armand Battista, Argo O. Giese, Robert D. Iiams. Back Row: Frank J. Pendergast, Arnold W. Brown, Frank Kamykowski, Jimmie D. Mills, Jr., William L. Corson, John Kurylo, James E. Black, John J. Boyce.



Bottom Row: Emil F. DeQuardo, Smiley Wagner, James E. Dumouchel. Second Row: Lauri E. Kivimaki, Richard E. Murphy, Jack R. Grosh, Sam Cipolla, Howard L. Wilson, James F. Belville, Fred Gardner, Cecil E. Williams, Matthew Kryjak. Third Row: Clayton Ferree, Lewis Simpson, Robert DeGeorge, William A. McGavern, Vernon Rutter, James A. Ballard, Richard McCoy, William Zauner. Fourth Row: W.W. Hill, Eugene L. Cruse, Anthony J. Sopata, James Brown, Gunder Berg, Vincent J. Garofalo. Fifth Row: Lilley, George Sturtz, Joe Frankie, Wayne B. Frye, George E. Dowell, George A. Kemnitz, Armando Sinibaldo. Back Row: Harold Mitchamore, Leo Lyons, Howell Loper, Robert M. Waddell, David Lloyd, Bruce Lythjohan, Aulden Dunn, Edward C. Gates, Wesley R. Rabedeaux.



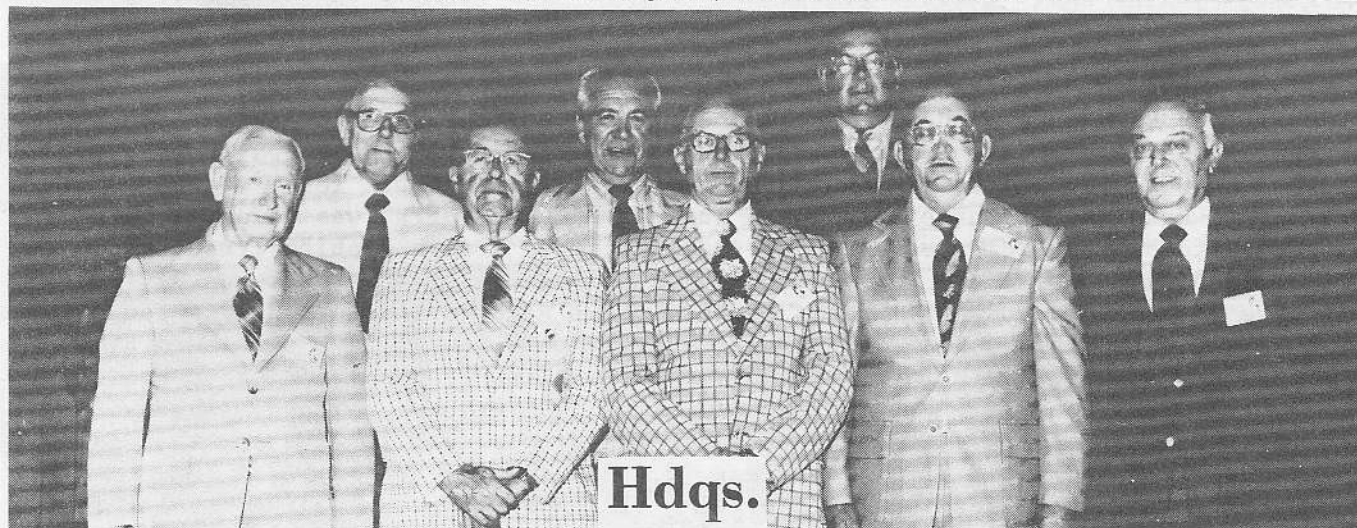
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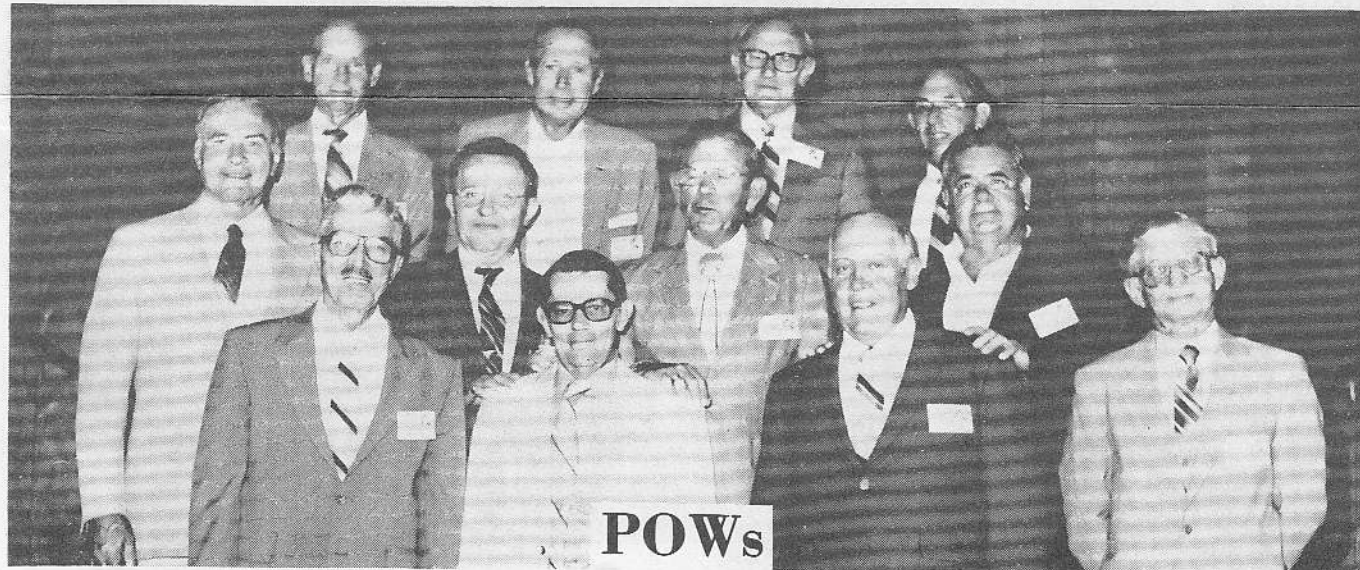
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Bottom Row: James D. Fletcher, Howard F. Weber, John Flinn, Jack R. Paget, Willis J. Kaltenbach, Harold Lieberman, John C. Conway, John W. Mikesell, Paul McDuffee. Second Row: Daniel Bryla, Matt Abramson, Tom Gunn, Elon M. Gaston, Larry Sylvester, Herbert M. Weinberger. Third Row: Edward Haller, Rocco J. Maiorca, John D. Hamner, Paul Chryst, Harold DeBelt, Troy C. Young, John A. Capron, Maurice J. Herman.



Bottom Row: Kenneth V. Johns, William J. Cornwell, Joseph Franke, Robert L. Dorcy, Richard E. Knutelsky. Second Row: Edward J. Kriegel, Don Pescot, Robert C. Opp.



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Notes From The President...

Having attended many of the 91st reunions and rally-rounds, I came away from the 1982 reunion with the distinct impression that it had the greatest attendance of any: Approximately 375-400 members and guests, with 140 dues paying members attending the business meeting. One of the most impressive aspects of the 1982 reunion was attendance by 36, repeat 36, members who were attending their first 91st reunion. Including spouses and guests nearly 80 persons were enjoying their first get-together with old buddies.

As you know, one of the primary reasons for selecting Dayton as our 1982 reunion site was to combine the Living Tree Memorial dedication with the reunion itself. When the selection of Dayton was announced a disconcerting number of members predicted that "nobody will attend!" Tempering our arrangements only slightly on the basis of those dire predictions but primarily on the basis of past attendance, we discovered too late that our accommodations at the Imperial House were insufficient for the number who actually showed up, many who had not previously notified the group of their intention to attend. Consequently, it was necessary to lodge late registrants in another facility.

The unexpectedly heavy turnout also created a logistic difficulty insofar as transportation was concerned, i.e., several members were delayed in their return from the Air Force Museum. Our sincere apologies to all who were inconvenienced (the 91st is #1 and we shall strive to keep it that way.)

To better serve the wishes of the members, your officers are soliciting your recommendations on the site for the 1984 reunion. It must be remembered, however, that we must have two members in that area who are willing to put forth a great deal of effort to make one of these reunions a success. Chuck Marrah was doing everything that needed to be done for the Dayton arrangements when health problems removed him to Florida; if Bill Cornwell and Don Bader had not filled the breach so adequately, we would have been out of runway. That's one reason we need at least two dedicated members.

In keeping with our policy of alternating between the eastern and western U.S., the 1984 reunion should be held in the western or western-central U.S. Your officers already have some volunteers at locations which would meet the geographical requirement: Seattle (Boeing B-17), Long Beach (Queen Mary), Brownsville (Texas, that is), Colorado Springs, and Rapid City (South Dakota, that is).

If there are other locations with willing 91st hosts, we would like to hear from you not later than Jan. 5, 1983. All locations can then be published in the January R/I, with your preferred selection being requested. The results of the tally and selection of site will be printed in the April R/I. Can we make it more democratic than that? Tom Gunn

Editors Note: Delay in receipt of official pictures from Dayton has delayed publication of this issue of The Ragged Irregular. Except for squadron photographs the pictures used were from personal shots by the editor. Many important photographs are missing; we will present them in the January issue.



Beginning: Registration line forms...



End: A full house for Saturday's banquet..