



The Ragged Irregular

91st Bombardment Group (H) Newsletter

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Our Reunions Get Better Every Time!

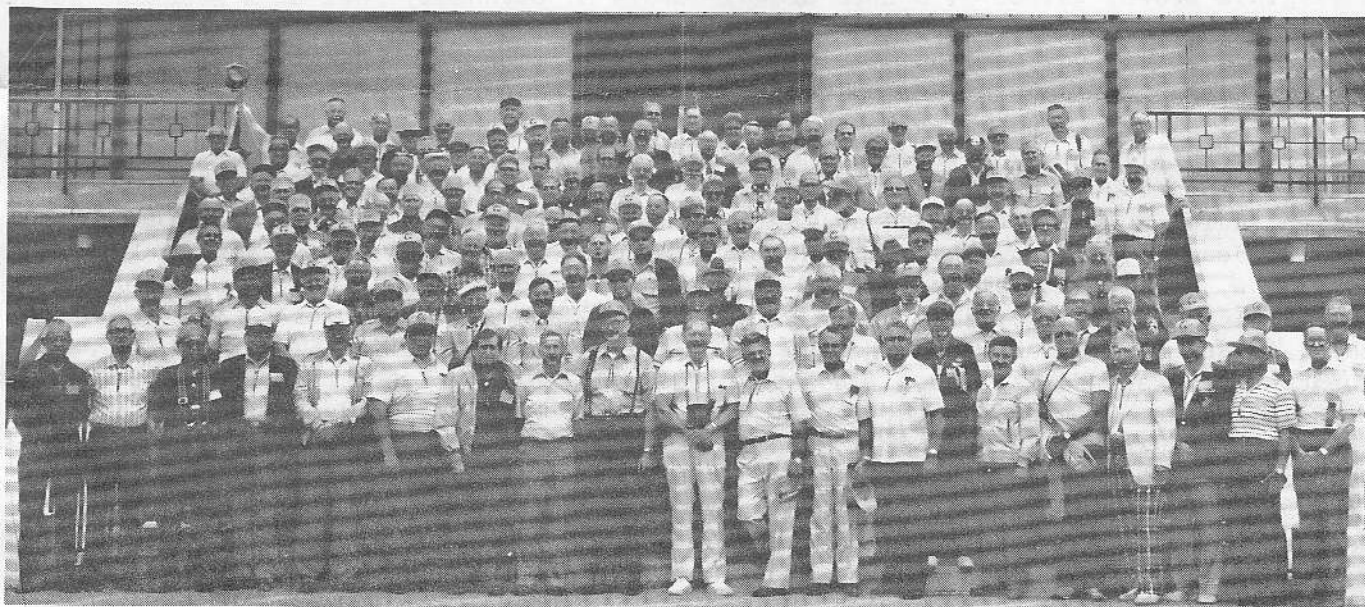
Each national reunion seems to surpass those that have gone before, both in numbers and enthusiasm, and the get-together in Colorado Springs in September was a brilliant example. Attendance went over the 400 mark, with 380 officially signing in, and an additional 25-30 "drop-ins" on hand for the event. The reunion committee of Paul Jessop, Jim Fletcher, and Glenn Boyce had put together an especially attractive, entertaining, and smooth-running affair.

Though registration and the official beginning did not start until Wednesday, Sept. 5, dozens of 91sters were on hand as early as Monday and Tuesday for early visiting with old buddies and a chance to do additional sight-seeing in the Colorado Springs area. An evening cocktail party climaxed the busy registration day.

An outstanding surprise for registrants was the presence of M/Gen. Stanley T. Wray, first C.O. of the 91st and founder and President Emeritus of the Memorial Association. Though now severely handicapped and confined to a wheel chair, Gen. Wray personally greeted and warmly welcomed many who formerly served with him. He was accompanied by his lovely wife Esther and his assistant, Joe Hernandez.

On Thursday morning golfers had a chance to play the Air Force Academy course, and a large contingent took advantage of the rare opportunity. In the afternoon an Air Force Briefing Team from NORAD/SPACOM presented a slide-illustrated briefing at the Clarion, Reunion headquarters. Capping the day was a Chuck-Wagon Supper at the Flying W Ranch, followed by western entertainment.

On Friday 91sters took a tour of the Air Force Academy, highlighted by a special memorial service for those members who gave their life in WW II, held in the famous Air Force Academy chapel. The memorial service was conducted by Father Colin Kelly, Jr., son of the famous B-17 pilot credited with setting afire a Japanese warship in the Philippines on Dec. 10, 1941, three days after the U.S. entered the war. At least two



91st members gathered on the entrance steps of the Air Force Academy chapel after the special memorial service for those members who gave their lives in WW II.

91sters present at the service, LTC (Ret) Milton A. Green (ex-322) and M/Sgt. (Ret) Arnold W. Brown (ex-322) served with Colin Kelly in the Philippines before joining the 91st. The return from the Air Force Academy took the group through the Garden of the Gods, one of Colorado's outstanding geological sites (and sights).

Saturday was a busy time, with the Group business meeting set for 8-11 a.m. The ladies attended a champagne brunch and cooking demonstration from 9-11.

In the business session Col. Tom Gunn was re-elected Association president, Glenn Boyce was elected first vice-president, and John R. (Jack) Paget was elected second vice-president. Paul C. (Cliff) Burnett was re-elected editor-historian and George Parks re-elected secretary-treasurer. The Group approved the holding of a Super Rally-Round in Seattle, WA., in July, to coincide with the celebration of the 50th anniversary of the B-17 by Boeing. An enthusiastic group of Washington State members volunteered to sponsor the event. (Additional details in a separate story).

It was decided that the regular Group Reunion would be held in 1986, but no site was selected. Since the '84 reunion was held in the western U.S. the '86 reunion should be east of the Mississippi. Site suggestions and names of volunteers willing to host the reunion should be sent to Sec.-Treas. George Parks as soon as possible so a decision can be made by the reunion committee.

Following the business meeting many members then attended the Air Force Academy - University of Northern Colorado football game at the Air Force Academy.

An outstanding Western Theme banquet wrapped up the reunion that evening. A spectacular entertainment program from an Air Force Academy group and a western band with cloggers kept the group enthralled.

Speaker for the evening was Gen. Theodore Milton (Ret), of 91st HQ.

Seven new Life Members were inducted at the banquet. They were: R. Clifford Vrooman (401), LTC (Ret) Milton A. Green (322), George N. Stutz (323), Claude A. McCarter (323), William L. Eblen (323), Wayne B. 'Tex' Frye (323), and John Irak, Jr., (401).

Receiving the mug for coming the greatest distance to attend were LTC Ted L. and Mary Skawinski (USAF Ret), who came from Saudi Arabia.

Attending the reunion were: H. Marston & Molly Adams, David G. & Dorothy Alford, James M. & Isabelle Bacon, Donald (Tibby) & Mazie Ballou, Nicholas & Mary Bankovsky, J. Addison & Marion Bartush, Donald L. Beal, Vernon T. & Dorothy Beaman, Freeman C. & Becky Beasley, William D. & Martha Beasley, James O. & Betty Bedwell, James F. Belville.

Mickey & Doloris Blake, Charles D. (Red) Booth, Harlyn L. & Clarice Bossert, Glenn V. & Lois Boyce, Charles R. Braman, John R. Brickley, Arnold W. & Charlis Brown, Dean C. & Virginia Brown, Walter S. & Lura Brown, Gerald M. Burkhart, Paul C. & Lorraine Burnett, Ray Bursey, Mrs. Otto W. (Goldie) Cahill, Donald E. & Amy Caldwell, Walter R. & Jean Cameron, G. B. & Lucy Cameron, William S. & Audrey Campbell, Bennett R. Carey, Hubert B. & Patsy Carpenter, John K. & Bobbie Carter, Robert C. & Pam Christman.

Sam J. & Mary Cipolla, Vernon & Betty Clabaugh, Robert H. & Bonnie Clapp, Harry W. Clifford, Phillip L. & Nadine Collins, Robert B. & Beth Compton, John C. & Gertrude Conway, Leonard H. & Phyllis Cook, Norman C. & Jacqueline Cox, James J. & Elaine Cullen, Ralph H. & Dorothy Danekas, Neil A. Daniels, Harold R. DeBolt, Donald L. Derowitsch, Jean Derowitsch, Emil F. & Mary Ann DeQuardo, Vernon L. Dion, Edward J. & Amy Dobrinske, Frank G. Donofrio, Hubert F. & Evelyn Donohue, Phillip R. & Jane Dorn.

Alvin J. Dreiling, Wilbur C. & Lu Duemler, Jeanne Duffey, James E. & Evelyn Dumouchel, Aulden N. & Ramona Dunn, Norman C. & Rose Eateringer, William L. & Elma Eblen, Quentin H. & Rena Ellis, Lou & Ida Essnar, LeRoy B. & Jane Everett, Mr. & Mrs. Charles W. Falkenmayer, Clayton Ferree, Stuart C. & Harriet Fitzgerald, James D. & Ruth Fletcher, Paul W. & Margaret Flournoy, Jr., Marcell & Mamie Fountain, Joseph & Alberta Franke, George J. & Betty Frantz, Roy H. & Lois Fratz, Wayne (Tex) & Joyce Frye, Jack P. & Jan Gaffney, Avery O. & Jean Gage, Edward J. & Jeanne Gallagher, Jr., Fred T. & Corilee Gardner, Elon M. & Bettie Gaston, Edward C. & Joan Gates, Joel W. & Patricia Gatewood.

Donald S. & Roberta Gauthier, Elmer Gettis, Joseph M. Giambrone, Argo O. & Lillian Giese, Harry R. & Shirley Glen, Milton A. & Gertrude Green, Howard W. & Helen Gum, Carl A. Gundersen, Thomas H. Gunn, Charles F. Hadd, Edward & Helen Haller, John D., Catherine, & John Hamner, Joseph & Jenny Harlick, John B. Haus, Art & Mae Hele, Gaylord

M. & Colleen Henryson, Mr. & Mrs. Edward W. Hensler, Maurice J. & Betty Herman, Joe Hernandez, Ann Hibbard, Whitmal W. Hill, Robert M. & Caroline Hoffman, Conrad & Virginia Hohing, William N. & Jeanne Hollenbaugh, Mel & Ruth Houghton, Harry E. Hovernill.

Charles Hudson, James J. & Phyllis Humphreys, John & Evelyn Irak, Paul D. & Mary Jo Jessop, Edward J. & Ruth Kaiserski, E. Robert Kelley, Jerold D. Kethley, Charles M. Kirkham, Laurie & Kerttu Kivimaki, Horace & Mary Knight, William T. & Lillian Koranda.

Michael N. & Vema Kunrod, John & Madeline Kurylo, Henry L. Lilley, Paul J, Jeanie & Helen Limm, Leo L. & Kay Lyons, Bruce & Marjorie Lythjohan, Phillip G. Mack, Pete Markowski, Maurice F. Markway, Charles H. & Phyllis Marrah, Clyde V. & Ruth Mason, Claude A. & Vera McCarter, Richard W. & Margaret McCoy, Edward P. & Bessie McDaniel, Paul G. McDuffee, William McDuffee, Clemens B. & Lillian McGara, William A. & Virginia McGavern, Fred W. & Elizabeth Mellon, Adolph P. & Neta Miller, Harold N & Mae Mitchamore.

Ervin E. & Beverly Mock, Virgil I. Mott, Donald W. & Betty Moucka, Oscar J. & Sybil Mouton Jr., Lauren H. & Dorothy Mummert, Julian A. & Mary Ellen Murdoch, Richard E. & Lorraine Murphy, Arlon A. & Celia Nessa, E. Lee & Betty Nichols, Jr., Marvin E. & Demetra Nichols, John J. & Alice Ondrovic, Jack R. & Norma Paget, M. Earl & Florence Painter, George W. & Marian Parks, John R. Parsons, Jr., Edward A. & Lenora Peacock, Charles R. & Carolyn Peck, Aubin R. & Jacqueline Pene, Calvin Perkins, Vicki Perry.

Clifford O. Pierce, Robert J. & Alyce Powers, Charles H. & Alice Pretti, Wesley R. & Beverly Rabedeaux, Harry R. Raihl, Michael & Ardella Rheam, Raymond C. & Jean Ridings, Frank S. & Ruth Ripa, Robert W. & Arlene Roach, Marvin B. & Peggy Robinson, Vernon & Wylene Rutter, Jr., Charles W. & Evelyn Sanzenbacher, Robert L. & June Schuck.

Robert E. & Gloria Schuster, Howard W. & Martha Sherman, James & Lou Shoesmith, George W. & Sue Shook, Grant Siddoway, Charles H. Silvernail, Lowell V. Silvernail, Capen R. & Edwy Jeannie Simons, George R. & Wanda Simons, Lewis & Malderine Simpson, Armando J. & Norma Sinebaldo, Howard E. & Mary Sisk, Ted L. & Mary Skawinski.

Harry F. Smith, Herman Smith, Steven P. Smith, Suzanne Smith, William T. & Irene Smith, William R. & Pat Snipes, Anthony J. & Genevieve Sopata, Morris & Shelly Spielberg, Tony & Jackie Starcer, Wallace & Opal Stark, Erwin Rudy Steele, Willis C. & Laura Stinson, George N. & Enid Sturtz, William Stouffer, Larry & Mary Lou Sylvester, John B. Temple, Matthew J. & Reda Templeton, Henry W. & Hazel Terry, Tammie Tennyson.

William D. & Margie Thissell, Karl (Tommy) & Virginia Thompson, William H. & Dorothy Turcotte, R. Clifford Vrooman, Edwin & Norma Walczak, Herbert M. & Ilse Weinberger, Ben W. & Iris Whittle, Cecil E. & Ann Williams, David M. & Virginia Williams, Earl G. & Alice Williamson Jr., Howard L. Wilson, Bert T. & Gladys Wolfinbarger, M/Gen. Stanley T. & Esther Wray, William J. & Katherine Zauner.

Some Notes From President Tom Gunn ...

This group continues to amaze me. Once again there were more members present than were at any previous reunion. A quick survey indicated that again 30-40 members were attending their very first reunion (you first-timers please drop a note or card to Cliff Burnett and identify yourselves for recognition in the R/I).

Upon returning from Colorado Springs, I tried to explain to my sons not so much what we did there but what it meant to me. To illustrate the very special relationship amongst 91sters, I offered the following comparison. I had an older brother. Growing up, we had our share of "fights" but he was always there to help little brother... minor things like saving me from drowning and intervening when I was outnumbered. He also was in WW II (Army). I admired him and loved him. Although we both served in the ETO, we didn't fight together this time. And it's fighting together that makes the difference. There is no way to explain the feeling of being shot at. The "high" produced by any drug or alcohol couldn't hold a candle compared to the "high" of being shot at! The Bassingbourn experience produced a bond between 91sters unlike any other, even more special than exists between brothers.

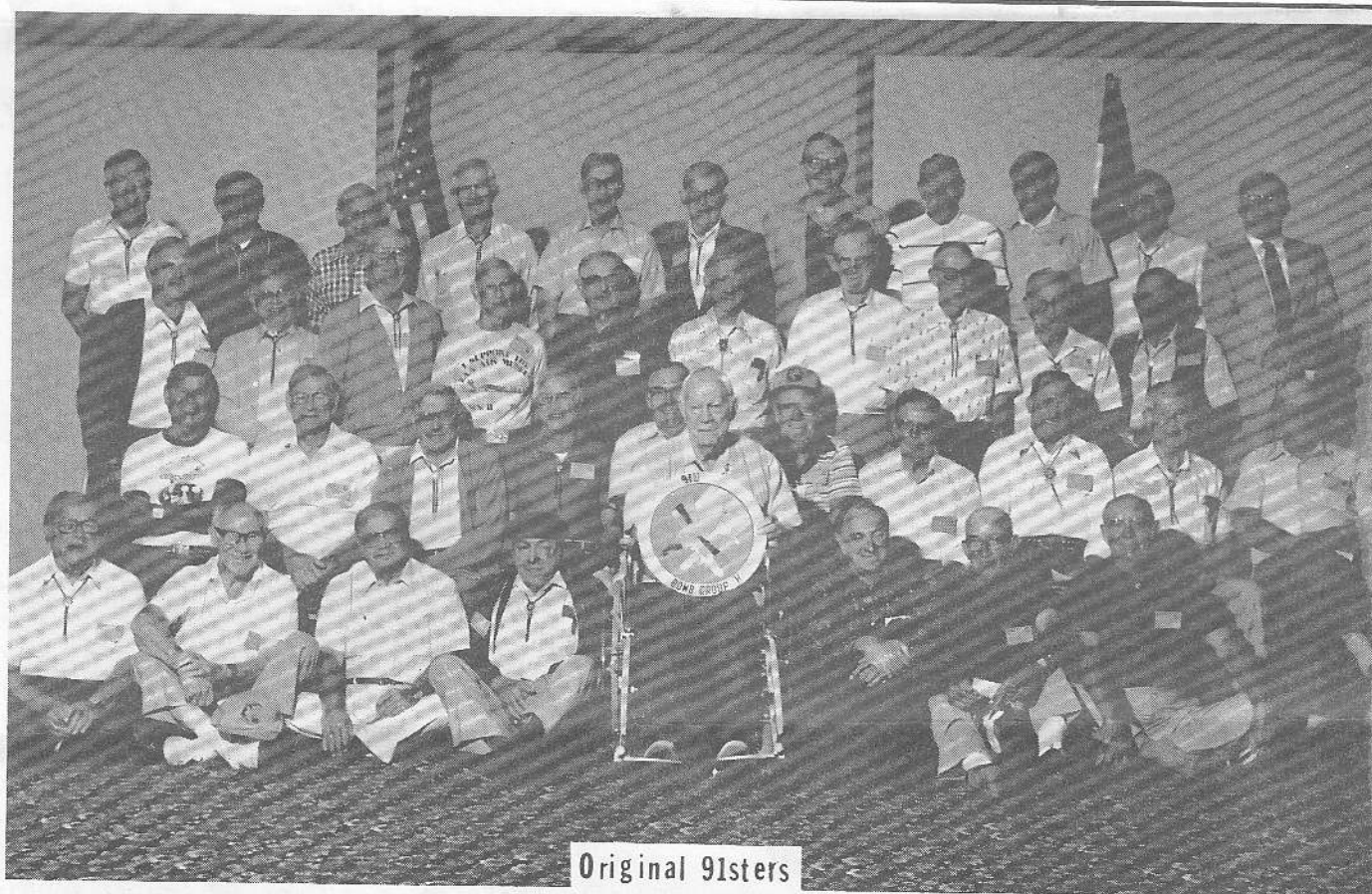
As the first-timers gathered at Colorado Springs, the question, "Is so-and-so here?", was repeated many times. When two comrades meet for the first time in 40 years

it is a touching moment. I suspect that the 91sters who are "re-discovering" the 91st will be at the 1986 reunion, and that is why our attendance sets a new record at virtually every reunion. There were a number who planned to attend but had to abort; they were missed. On the brighter side, many original 91sters were fortunate in visiting with Gen. Wray who, despite a tough physical handicap, exerted a personal maximum effort and flew one more mission with the 91st.

Upon reflection, I really shouldn't be amazed at this group whose members earned so many accolades during the war. In addition to a couple of Presidential Unit Citations, the 91st is credited with: (1) Longest continuous combat record of any Air Force unit in the ETO; (2) First group to complete a mission without an abort; (3) Shot down more Nazi fighters than any other bomb group in the ETO (1,000 in 7 months); (4) First bomb group to bomb enemy territory twice on the same mission; and (5) Only bomb group to have personnel receive more than 1000 decorations in six months.

I pray and hope we all can meet again in 1986. Cheers!

Tom Gunn



Original 91sters

First row, seated on floor, 1 to r: Phil Dorn (401), Leo Lyons (323), Joe Camelleri (324), Joe Giambrone (324), M/Gen. Stanley T. Wray, Harry Glen (323), Aulden Dunn (323), Harold Mitchamore (323).

Second row: W.W. Hill (323), Bob Clapp (322), Lindy Cook (322), Julian Murdoch (322), Arnold Brown (322), Virgil Mott (401), Wilbur Duemler (322), Howard Gum (322), Howard Sisk (322), Lewis Simpson (323).

Third row: Richard McCoy (323), Michael Kunrod (323), Don Moucka (322), Lauren Mummert (324), Lee Nichols (324), Clifford Pierce (401), Charles Booth (401), Vern Clabaugh (322), John Irak (401), Edward Haller (401).

Fourth Row: Cliff Burnett (322), C.B. McGara (323), Fred Mellon (324), Arlon Nessa (322), Glenn Boyce (401), Vernon Dion (401), John Parsons (401), Charles Marrah (401), Jack Gaffney (401), Roy Fratz (401), Horace Knight (401).



Seated, left to right: Tony Starcer, Ralph Danekas, Oscar Mouton, Jr., Wilbur Duemler, Don Moucka, Paul Jessop.

Second row: Bill Snipes, Lindy Cook, Norman Cox, Bob Kelley, Grant Siddoway, Chuck Hadd, Dean Brown, Rudy Steele, Howard Sisk.

Third row: Arlon Nessa, LeRoy Everett, Bill Turcotte, Paul Flournoy, Howard Gum, Cliff Burnett, Julian Murdoch, Arnold Brown, Vern Clabaugh, Bob Roach.

Fourth row: George Shook, Edward McDaniel, John Carter, Joe Gatewood, Capen Simons, R.L. Schuck, Argo Giese, Bob Schuster.



Seated, front row, left to right: Harry Raihl, Robert 'Dusty' Hoffman, William McGavern, Ted Skawienski, George Sturtz, Hank Lilley.

Second row: Willis Stinson, Harry Glen, James Dumouchel, Ed Kaiserski, Robert Christman, Aulden Dunn, C.B. McGara, Leo Lyons, Harold Mitchamore.

Third row, seated in chairs: Lewis Simpson, W.W. Hill, Vernon Rutter Jr., William Zauner, Cecil Williams, F.T. Gardner, Howard Wilson, Earl Williamson, Sam Cipolla, Lauri Kivimaki.

Fourth row: M.J. Templeton, Vern Beaman, Dick McCoy, Michael Kunrod, Quentin Ellis, Raymond Ridings, Stuart Fitzgerald, Hubert Donohue, Armando Sinibaldi, Jack Haus, Anthony Sopata, Emil DeQuardo, Chuck Kirkham, Claude A. McCarter.

Fifth row: Tex Frye, Bill Eblen, James Cullen, Joe Franke, Clayton Ferree, Maurice Markway, Walter Brown, Tommy Thompson, William Smith, Bill Rabedeaux, W.N. Hollenbaugh.



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Front row, seated, left to right: Hubert Carpenter, Roy Van Dyke, Adolph Miller, Walter Cameron, Elmer Gettis, Joe Giambrone, Joe Camelleri, Carl Gundersen.

Second row, standing: Joe Harlick, Donald Caldwell, Norman Eatinger, Harry Smith, Phillip Collins, Tom Gunn.

Third row: Lauren Mummert, Lee Nichols, Jr., Fred Mellon, Harry Adams, Jack Brickley, J.A. Bartush, Rod Hohing, George Parks.



441 & HQ

Left to right: Tony Starcer, Jim Bedwell, W.W. Hill, Mike Rheam (HQ), Charlie Hudson (HQ), Lew Ensign (HQ), Tommy Thompson (HQ).



First row, seated on floor, 1 to r: Tib Ballou, Ben Whittle, Ed Walczak, Harry Hovermill, Clifford Vrooman, Roy Fratz, Horace Knight, Larry Sylvester, Jim Fletcher, Ed Gallagher, Jr., Morris Spielberg, Paul McDuffy.

Second row, in chairs: Robert Powers, George Simons, Phil Dorn, Elon Gaston, Herbert Weinberger, Clifford Pierce, Virgil Mott, Nicholas Bankovsky, Maury Herman, David Williams, Neil Daniels, William Campbell, Marcell Fountain.

Third row: John Ondrovic, Paul Limm, John Parsons, Aubin Pene, John Conway, James Bacon, Charles Peck, John Hamner, Emil Viskocil, Edward Haller, John Irak, Vernon Dion, Donald Gauthier, Charles Marrah, George Parks, Tom Gunn.

Fourth row: Charles Booth, Charles Hudson, Mike Rheam, Jack Gaffney, Earl Painter, Glenn Boyce, Hal DeBolt, Jim Shoesmith, Avery Gage, Charles Sanzenbacker, Bill Thissell, Charles Braman, Howard Sherman.

Seattle Super Rally-Round Set For July

A 91st Memorial Association Super Rally-Round has been set for Seattle, WA., July 24-25-26, 1985, to coincide with the Boeing Company's celebration of the 50th anniversary of the B-17.

The rally-round was approved at the business meeting of the National Reunion at Colorado Springs, with a host of Seattle area and Washington state members volunteering to set up the event. Heading up the committee is a trio made up of Bob Schuck, Kent, WA., Clyde V. Mason, Bellevue, and Joe Harlick, Renton.

A number of B-17 groups will be taking part in the birthday bash. Several will be holding group reunions, while others will have informal get-togethers during the event.

The 91st will have a couple of days for its own get-together before the Boeing activities scheduled for July 26. A plan of 91st activities is currently being put together, and a packet of pertinent information prepared. Clyde Mason is in charge of reservations, and interested members should contact him for additional details. His address is: Clyde V. Mason, 1001 Evergreen Drive, Bellevue, WA. 98004.

While most 91st rally-rounds have been local or regional events, over the years the Group has sponsored a number of Super Rally-Rounds that included members from all parts of the U.S., with attendance numbering 150-200. These differ from National Reunions only in that no official business is transacted and they need not alternate between Eastern and Western sections of the country.

HOLIDAY GREETINGS TO YOU

From The Editor's Desk...

Paul C. Burnett Box 909 Auburn, AL 36830

A plaque of the Group and Squadron insignias was presented to the old 91st watering hole - the Eagle Pub on Bene't street in Cambridge - on Sept. 20 and now hangs in a place of honor behind the bar.

The plaque was donated by the Memorial Association and presented by M/Sgt. Otto Meikus (Ret), (ex-324th sqdn.) and his wife Gladys, who have lived in Cambridge a number of years. Otto and Gladys also have represented the 91st at the Memorial Services at the American Cemetery at Madingley the last several years.

The Eagle, dating back to the sixteenth century, was always a favorite gathering place for 91sters. As Otto remembers, "Ethyl (Lindsay) always had a warm fire and a warm welcome for us."

Members proudly smoked their squadron numbers, plane names, etc., on the arched ceilings with candles and cigarette lighters, and these remain today, carefully preserved by the British government as a historic memento of WW II. Tour guides bring their tours to the Eagle to see these wartime reminders.

Unfortunately, Otto passes along the information that the "regulars" at the pub today are "mostly a rather weird group-- young punk rockers and such."

As a result of the local press coverage of the presentation Otto received a phone call from the brother of the wartime owner of the pub (Ethyl was the sister of the owner's wife) and discovered that Ethyl's son was living in the Cam-



Otto Meikus (left) presents the plaque to Eagle landlord Mick Grove.

bridge area. He visited him and learned that the wartime owners are still living, retired on the South Coast of England. Also he found that, contrary to many rumors heard by ex-91sters, Ethyl had not moved to the U.S., but had retired to the South Coast before her death a few years ago.

Oscar Mouton was so distressed at losing his Rigid Digit "Finger" tie tac with no more available that he arranged for the manufacture of a new supply. Other 91sters who find themselves in the same boat can pick one up for \$5 from Oscar at P.O. Box 158, Shalimar, FL. 32579.

We have received a request for help that some of you may be able to handle. The letter, first sent to the 8th AF Clearing House before being passed on to the 91st says: "My former brother-in-law, 1st Lt. Warren T. Smith, 91st Bomb Gp., 323rd sqdn. died on January 7, 1945, while a prisoner of war, as a result of wounds received when he was shot down on January 6 on a mission to Cologne, Germany. He served with the 91st from June, 1944.

At the request of his daughter I am attempting to get in touch with his former friends... Robert J. Carey, 937 9th St., Colusa, CA. 95932.

Also a cry for help from the Air Force Escape & Evasion Society: "I am trying to locate airmen who were behind enemy lines and were helped by the brave ones in Holland, France and Belgium during WW II. Some of you evaded capture, some escaped from captivity, others were aided and then captured. Over 3000 airmen were evaders or escapees. However, only 250 are on the Air Force Escape & Evasion Society roster.

"My husband escaped back to England because 63 brave people helped him. Many died in concentration camps or were killed. We have found 12 and expect to find others. Any contact that lets these helpers know about the results of their efforts and that they have not been forgotten is needed and appreciated.

The AFEES has a terrific trip to Europe being planned for June 4-18, 1985 to help our friends celebrate their Liberation Days.

If you are eligible for membership in the AFEES please contact Heyward C. Spinks, P.O. Box 844, Beaufort, S.C. 29902."

"Scotty" David