



The Ragged Irregular

91st Bombardment Group (H) Newsletter

Vol. 18 No. 3

October, 1985

It Really Was SUPER IN SEATTLE!

In a truly SUPER Super Rally-Round that matched our recent National Reunions, more than 400 ex-91sters, wives, families, and friends got together at Seattle July 23-27 during Boeing's 50th Anniversary Celebration of the B-17. The Memorial Association event attracted 38 members, their wives and families, to their very first 91st affair ever, and 11 members were added to the association who had never before joined.

Total attendance in Seattle for all B-17 veterans of WW II was estimated at 11,000-12,000.

The Washington State Host Committee, which included Chairman Bob Schuck, Charlie Hackstock, Clyde V. Mason, Joe Harlick, and a number of other hard-working volunteers, had arranged an outstanding program for Memorial Association members. The Group made a scenic tour of Seattle, a visit to the Pacific Science Center, staged a 91st golf tournament, and a ferry ride to an authentic Northwest salmon bake. The group also attended a punch party where the unveiling of a painting of the 91st "Outhouse Mouse" under attack by the first German rocket plane, by artist Jerry Crandall, was shown.

The Boeing Management Association provided shuttle buses on Friday to the Museum of Flight, where all B-17 veterans and families were honored guests. Three B-17s, two P-51s and a P-47 made low level fly-bys over a cheering crowd numbering about 30,000.

Friday evening 408 were in attendance at the 91st Banquet at the Hilton Hotel.

The 91st members were featured on many news broadcasts and interviews. Tony Starcer and his nose art painting was featured at the Boeing Management display trailer, along with a photographic display assembled by Joe Harlick. Manny Klette was recognized by Gen. Curtis LeMay for flying the most B-17 missions in the 8th AF, a total of 91.

Video cassette tapes of interviews, special events, fly-bys, and "Glen Miller Remembered at the Hangar Dance" are available from Free Enterprises, P.O. Box 3521, Federal Way, Wash. 98003.

Readers Digest will carry a story on "Shoo Shoo Baby" and its restoration, written by Senior Editor Nathan Adams, in the near future.

Attending the Seattle Super Rally Round were: George Abbott, Marv Anderson, Albin & Alice Andolshek, Roger & Gloria Armstrong, Robert & Zona Atterbury, Delbert & Betty Augsburg, Lamond & Lillian Bailey, Donald Ballou, Nicholas & Mary Bankovsky, Addison & Marion Bartush, Arvin & Marjorie Basnight, Vernon & Dorothy Beaman, Charles & Ethel Becraft, John & Jennie Bell, Max & Janet Bender, George & Eileen Birdsong.

Mickey & Delores Blake, Menford & Helen Borgeson, Glen & Lois Boyce, Dolph & Patricia Boyer, Charles & Ann Braman, Dave & Marnee Bramble, Cyril & Kitty Braund, Arnold & Charles Brown, Dean & Virginia Brown, Walter & Lura Brown, Weldon & Hannelore Brubaker, Kermit & Thelma & Jason Burman, Joseph Camelleri, Walt & Jean Cameron, Walter & Addine Carpenter, John & Bobbie Carter, Allen Chapman, Charles & Mary Cliburn.

Harry Clifford, Fred & Laurel Cochrane, Lyle & Alice Cook, Owen & Nancy Cooper, William & Eloise Cornitius, Norman & Jacqueline Cox, Jerry & Judy Crandell, James & Elaine Cullen, Edward & Ione Danro, Ralph & Dorothy Danekas, Neil Daniels, Dale Darling, Harold DeBolt, Peter DeBoy, Emil DeQuardo, William Dick, Robert Dickson, Vernon Dion, Frank Donofrio, Hubert & Evelyn Donohue, George & Margaret Dowell, James & Evelyn Demouchel, Quentin & Rena Ellis, Charles & Frances Falkenmeyer, Clayton & Frederica Ferree.

Leland & Mildred Forsblad, Marcell & Mamie Fountain, Joe & Bert Franke, John & Lou Skibbie, Roy & Lois Fratz, Wayne & Joyce Frye, Lawrence & Betty Gaddis, Edward & Tommy

Garner, Vincent & Louise Garofalo, Joel & Vicky Gatewood, Donald & Roberta Gauthier, Bob & Helen Gerald, Joseph Giambrone, Dick & Evelyn Gibson, Argo & Lillian Giese, Harry & Shirley Glen, Marvin Goldberg, William & Margaret Green, Carl Gundersen.

Thomas & Bettye Gunn, John & Frances Guros, Lloyd & Mildred Guzek, Charles & Augusta Hackstock, Charles Hadd, Robert Hadd, Frank & Helen Haddick, Manuel & Adele Hadley, Fred & Martha Hall, Edward & Helen Haller, Robert & Irene Hanson, John & Peggy Hardin, Joseph & Jennie Harlick, Robert Harris, Stan & Betty Henceroth, Gaylord & Colleen Henryson, Jim Hensley, Maurice & Bettina Herman, David & Norma Hetteema.

Whitmal & Jacquelyn Hill, Ed & Eileen Hofferber, James & Barbara Hoffman, Marion & Bernita Hoffman, Louis & Delma Holland, Harry Hovermill, William & Elsie Huie, Bert & Emily Humphries, Nicholas & Ginger Hyman, Ernest Jardine, Asay & Gloria Johnson, Eugene & Rose Johnson, Raymond & Mimi Jones, Willis Kaltenbach, John Karlac, Patrick, Dorothy & Dan King, Lauri & Kerttu Kivimaki, Emmanuel Klette, Horace & Mary Knight.

Clarence Koeller, William & Lillian Koranda, Robert & Lora Lackey & Beulah Laughrey, Clemith Lamen, Frank Lilley, Warren & Louise Lipscomb, Howell & Irene Loper, Bernard & Laura Lopez, John & Gaile Luke, C. A. & Eunice Lundberg, Donald & Mollie McBey, Claude & Vera McCarter, Richard & Margaret McCoy, Paul & Bill McDuffee, George & Joan McEwen, Clemens & Lillian McGara, William & Virginia McGavern, William & Alice McNicol, Philip Mack, Clyde & Ruth Mason, Gerald & Henrietta Massie, Russell Mattson.

William & Elaine Miller, Harold & Mae Mitchamore, Oscar & Sybil Mouton, Lauren & Dorothy Mummert, Donald Murray, Benedict & Clarice Musich, Al & Jan Myers, John & Alice Ondrovic & Donald Daly, John & Norma Paget & Ed, Ellen, & Ruth Kaminski, Earl & Florence Painter, Philip & Juanita Palmer, John Parsons, Robert & Norma Paulson, Jack & Helen Paxson, Leonard & Edna Peterson, Charles & Arlene Phillips, Walter & Amy Pickard, William & Marjorie Potter & James & Elizabeth Hopwood, Robert Powers, Richard & Travis Pressey, Robert & Charlotte Puls, Curtis & Ida Pyrah, Bill Rabedeaux, Harry Raihl.

Walter & Jean Ray, Gene & Ruth Remmell, R.C. Richardson, Raymond & Jean Ridings, Frank & Ruth Ripa, Carl & Amy Rizer, Milton, Louise, & Jay Russum, John & Faith Ryan, Garrett Saunders, Robert & June Schuck & Louis Krentz, Don & Marian Sheeler, Howard & Martha Sherman, Grant Siddoway, Charles Silvernail & Lowell & Nellie Lethers, Lewis & Maldarine Simpson, Seymour Simpson, Armando & Norma Sinibaldo, Howard Sisk.

Raymond & Jean Slominski, Don, Margaret, & Christine Smith, Harry Smith, Robert & Marilyn Smith, William & Pat Snipes, Garland & Doris Spicer, Bob & Maxine Sponsel, Tony & Jackie Starcer, Herman & Hilda Steiner, Arthur & Phyllis Thomsen, Matthew & Reda Templeton, Francis & Milly Toccalino, Deane Turner, Ray & Barbara Van Dyke, Bob & Betty Vaughan, Stanley & Luella Walaski, Edward Waters, James & Ronnie Waymire.

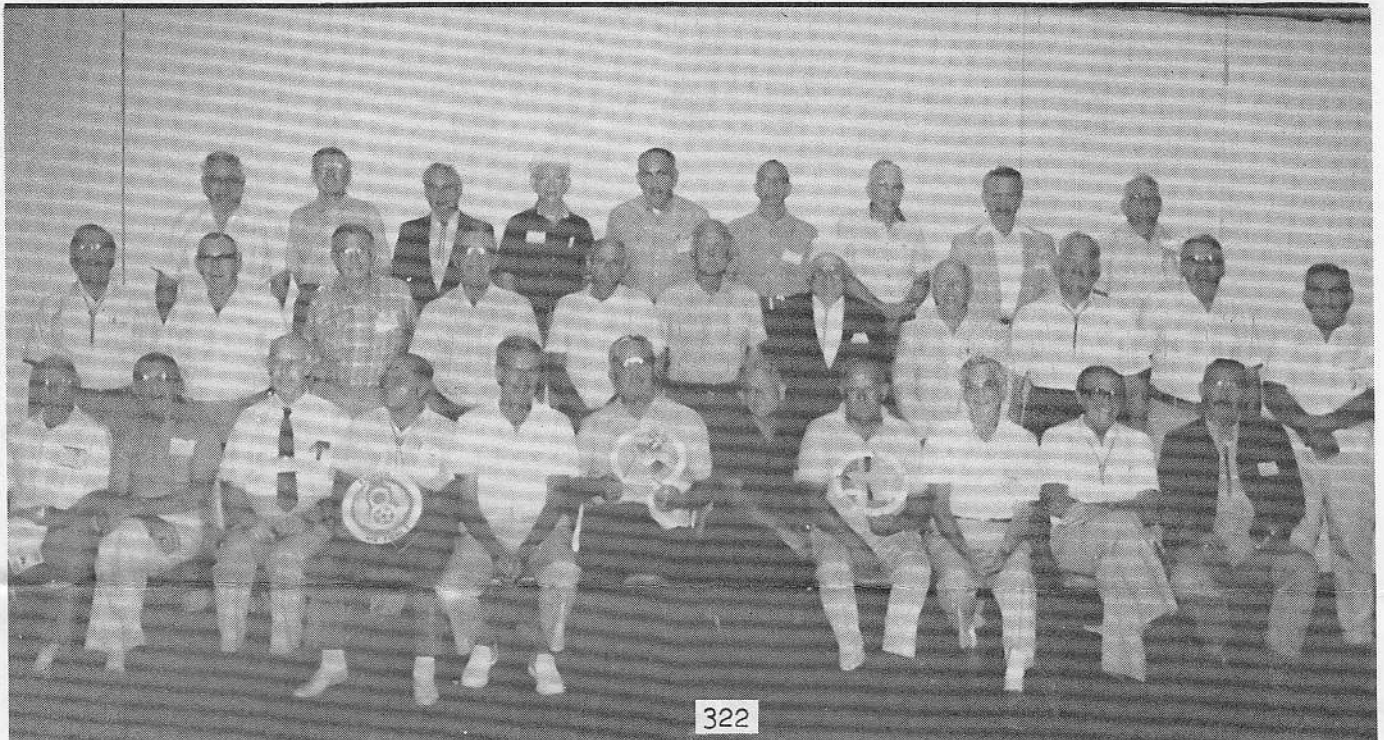
John & Iris Westwood, David & Virginia Williams, Bill & Patricia Wilson, Michael & Irene Zabiaka, Peter Adams, John Allen, George & Earlein Camp, William & Dorothy Chiles, Paul & Nancy Chryst, Sam & Mary Cipolla, Edwin & Eleanor Ehret, Edward & Joan Gates, William & Elaine Gladitsch, Jerold Kethley, Eugene & Dorothy Letalien, Terry McLaughlin, Irving & Marcella Miller, Charles & Carolyn Peck, William & Nellie Spreine, Weldon Ross, John Rumph, Jack Oates, Bernard Offley.



Serious talk by (l to r) Ralph Danekas, Bob Schuck, and Joe Harlick.



Artist Joe Crandall with "Outhouse Mouse" under attack by German rocket plane.



Front row, 1 to r: Jack Paxson, Edward Hofferber, William Wilson, Oscar Mouton, Don Sheeler, Edward Waters, Dean Brown, Edward Damro, Frank Haddick, Tony Starcer, Bob Sponsel. Middle row: John Hardin, Arnold Brown, Gaylord Henryson, Grant Siddoway, George Abbott, Max Bender, Norman Cox, Irving Miller, Bert Humphries, Asay Johnson, Hubert Donohue (323rd). Back row: Henry Lilley (323), Robert Dickson, Edwin Ehret, Howard Sisk, Bernard Lopez, Argo Giese, Clemith Lamen (323), Robert Harris (323), Charles Hackstock.



Front row, 1 to r: Lewis Simpson, John Karlac, John Luke, Marion Hoffman, Robert Puls, Gerald Massie, Robert Paulson, James Dumouchel, Vincent Garofalo, James Waymire. Middle row: Whitmal Hill, David Hetteima, Claude McCarter, Joe Franke, Wayne Frye, Armando Sinibaldo, Sam Cipolla, George Dowell, Ted Lundberg, William McGavern. Back row: Robert Vaughn, Dick McCoy, James Hoffman, Vernon Beaman, Milton Russum, Emil DeQuardo, Lauri Kivimaki, Howell Loper, Harold Mitchamore, Harry Glen.



Front row, 1 to r: George McEwen, Charles Falkenmeyer, Garland Spicer, Weldon Brubaker, Roy Van Dyke, Russell Mattson, Lawrence Gaddis, R.C. Richardson, Curtis Pyrah, Philip Palmer, Charles Cliburn. Middle row: Walter Carpenter, Lloyd Guzek, Herman Steiner, George Potter, Bernard Offley, Walt Cameron, Pete DeBoy, Bob Hanson, Bill Koranda, Pete Adams. Back row: Joe Harlick, Lauren Mummert, Dale Darling, Garrett Saunders, Addison Bartush, Marvin Goldberg, Jack Westwood, Tom Gunn, Al Myers, Delbert Augsberger.



Front row, 1 to r: Robert Atterbury, Albin Andolshek, Richard Pressay, Raymond Jones, Jack Oates, Harry Hovermill, Louis Holland, Dave Williams, Ralph Danekas, Don Smith, Charles Peck, Maurice Herman. Middle row: Menford Borgenson, Eugene Johnson, Clarence Koeller, Clyde Mason, Nicholas Bankovsky, Stanley Waslaski, Vernon Dion, Bill Spreine, Harold DeBolt, John Rayon, William Miller, Marcell Fountain. Back row: Earl Painter, Fred Hall, Frank Ripa, Glenn Boyce, Owen Cooper, Francis Toccalino, Kermit Burman, Dick Gibson, Roy Fratz, Charles Braman, Arthur Thomsen.

(Information and Rally-Round pictures by Joe Harlick).

Air Force Academy Memorial Dedicated



The turnout for the dedication ceremony of the 91st memorial at the Air Force Academy was surprisingly good considering only three weeks had elapsed since the Seattle Super Rally-Round. There were about 30 91sters at the dedication ceremony, including a few who were at Seattle. States represented were: Colorado, Washington, Michigan, Illinois, California, Oklahoma, Texas, New Mexico and Florida.

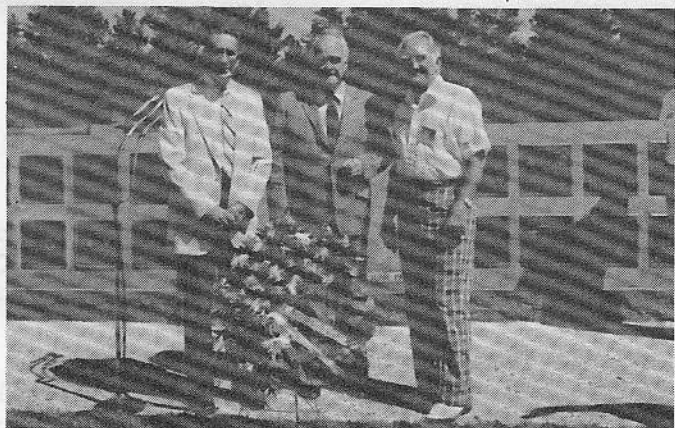
Harry Kool of Daytona Beach Shores, Florida, received the mug for travelling the greatest distance to attend the Rally-Round. His son, a lieutenant colonel stationed at the Academy, and daughter-in-law, were guests of the Kools at the dedication ceremony as well as at the excellent dinner at the Officers Club Friday evening.

I suspect the 91st will have another reunion, or at least a rally-round, in Colorado Springs within the next few years. Should your travels take you there before then, I recommend that you visit the site of the memorial. Although you've seen a picture of the memorial in the R/I, it is set in a beautiful surrounding.

Paul Jessop, assisted by Glenn Boyce and Jim Fletcher, hosted the Rally-Round. Paul also conceived the idea for the memorial, coordinated all aspects of its manufacture and installation, and arranged with the Air Force Academy for a touching ceremony: Assembly; welcome by the USAFA representative; invocation by USAFA chaplain; remarks by 91st spokesman; unveiling of Dedicatory Plaque; acceptance by USAFA; prayer for 91st deceased veterans, and a moment of silence followed by the playing of Taps.

The dedication was impressive. It was understandably solemn, for we were honoring our deceased 91sters. The flexibility of 91sters was demonstrated by a complete "about face" that evening when moods were portrayed by smiles and gaiety. Many thanks to Paul, Jim and Glenn.

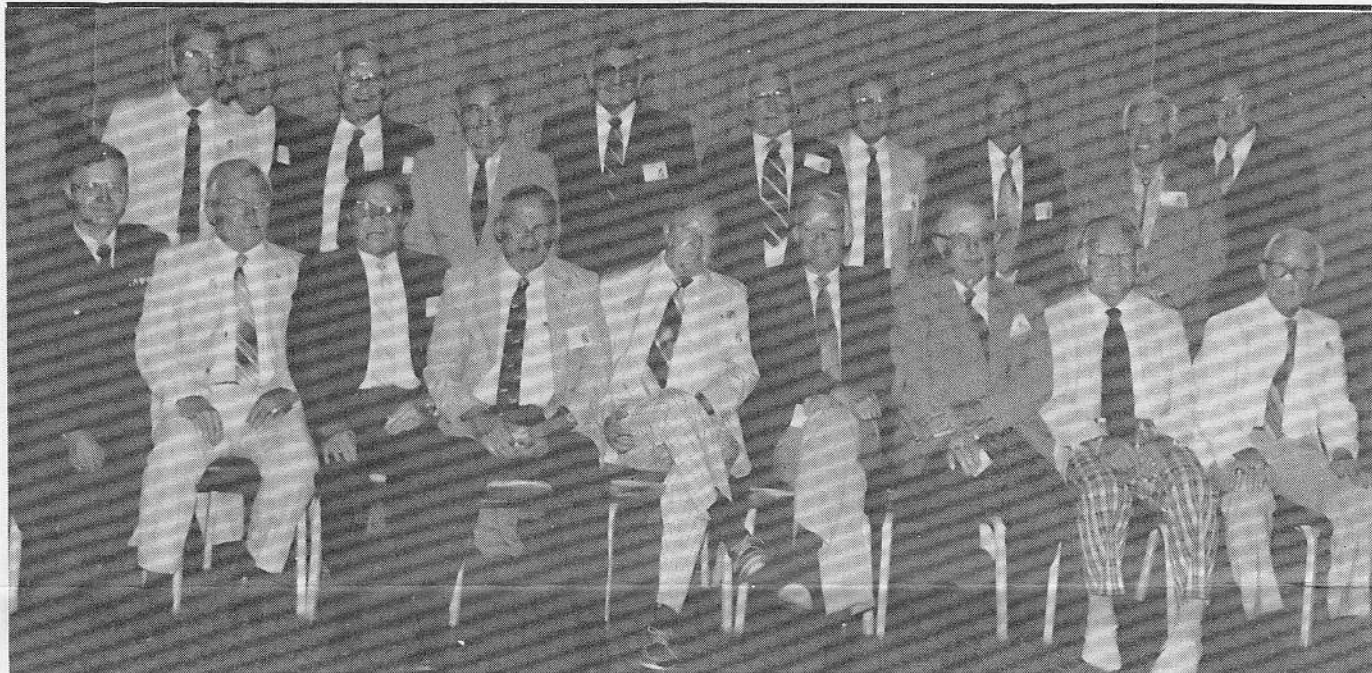
(Account taken from Pres. Tom Gunn's Notes To Members)



Rally Round hosts--First vice-president Glenn Boyce, Col. Paul Jessop, Lt. Col. Jim Fletcher, at dedication srevices.



President Tom Gunn presents the Mug to Harry Kool, Daytona Beach, FL., for coming the greatest distance to attend.



Front row, 1 to r: Leslie Kool, John Moore, Harry Kool, Larry O'Neill, Elmer Weaver, Charles Braman, Lee Nichols, Jim Fletcher, Carl Jannsen. Back row: Glenn Boyce, Paul Jessop, Tom Gunn, Bill Reynolds, Herb Egender, Charles Hackstock, Art Horning, Norman Bryant, Charles Falkenmayer, Bob Herbst.

Those attending the event were: Chris Allison, Donald & Mazie Ballou, Glenn & Lois Boyce, Charles & Ann Braman, Norman & Bobbie Bryant, Herb & Erna Egender, Charles & Frances Falkenmeyer, Jim & Ruth Fletcher, Tom Gunn, Charles & Augusta Hackstock, Bob & Betty Herbst, Art & Janet Horning, Carl & Peach Janssen, Paul & Mary Jo Jessop, Harry & Paula Kool, Leslie & Kane Kool, Michael Kunrod, John & Gladys Moore, Lee & Betty Nichols, Larry & Nancy O'Neil, Bill & Pearl Reynolds, Elmer & Marion Weaver.

Notes From The President ... Seattle

Seattle truly was a SUPER Rally-Round. Seeing those B-17s fly again was a thrill. Those old combat movies allow the senses of sight and sound to be aroused, but a real live B-17 awakens a couple of other senses: smell and feel. Boeing put on a terrific show for the Flying Fortress' Fiftieth Anniversary.

The people at Boeing get paid for what they do. Our 91st hosts didn't get paid, unless one considers the satisfaction of knowing you've done a bang-up job to be payment. There was an innovation in the sign-in area that really paid dividends. One of our hosts, Charlie Hackstock, was responsible for its success. As a part of the sign-in process, the member's name, plus sqdn. and room number, was posted alphabetically, making that information available immediately, thereby eliminating hundreds of "Is so-and-so here?"

The attendance at Boeing reportedly was 11-12,000 (not all 91sters). There were over 400 at the 91st banquet. The food and entertainment were excellent. Our Master of Ceremonies regaled us with a number of anecdotes. He permitted three or four of us 30 seconds each at the microphone for acknowledgements, etc. I do believe one of the 30-second spots got a bigger laugh (but unintentionally) than Digger's stories. The culprit was Frank Donofrio, a Life associate member from Memphis, who is wholehearted in promoting the restoration of the Memphis Belle. Frank was eager to promote the sale of Memphis Belle belt buckles (Joe Giambrone, former Belle crew chief, was sporting one). In leading into his pitch, Frank advised that if the audience would gaze beneath Giambrone's beerbelly they would be treated to a view of a masterpiece, a real work of art. At that time no mention had been made of belt buckles. Snickers turned into a

full minute of guffaws and applause, and Frank turned red, an accomplishment difficult for any man or woman our age. (I couldn't see Giambrone to ascertain exactly what he was exhibiting, but Frank eventually inserted his commercial about the belt buckle).

At the banquet, there were 37 members who had never attended a rally round or reunion before. Eleven new members joined the Association. I'll bet they could relate to the "Sing Along" of the "Whiffenpoof Song." Nostalgia mixed with the proper spirit(s) produced a fantastic rally-round.

Tampa

Certainly one of the toughest jobs you can take on in the Memorial Association is to volunteer to host a National Reunion, a job that is almost all work and no play. We were lucky to have several stalwarts stand up to be counted after our 1984 get-together in Colorado Springs.

And as soon as the membership vote was in and Tampa had been chosen for 1986, the lucky(?) Reunion hosts, Chairman Paul McDuffee and co-chairman Hal Loper, went into full speed forward to complete arrangements for the September 10-14, 1986 event. They selected a most convenient and superbly equipped headquarters, the Tampa Airport Holiday Inn, (800 rooms), and have already worked out much of an outstanding program.

McDill Field was where the Group first got really organized, and it continues today as one of the Air Force's most important bases. Tampa is in the heart of Florida's many attractions, a short drive from Disney World, Epcot Center, Cypress Gardens, Silver Springs, the Gulf beaches, etc., etc.

At the Seattle Rally Round we noted that many crews were already planning their own reunions again at Tampa. What a fine idea! Now is the time to get your crew and your buddies to be on hand!

From The Editor's Desk...

Paul C. Burnett Box 909 Auburn, AL 36830

Life Membership donations of \$100 continue to come in in ever-increasing numbers, with a current total of 16 received since January. A number of our newly discovered members have begun their association with the group as Life Members.

Since our July report we have added these new "Lifers": V.D. Stockton, P.O. Box 1169, Clayton, GA., ex-324 sqdn. gunner, Life Member as of 8/5/85; Edward M. Corman, 14606 Killarney Circle, Wichita, KS. 67230, 323 sqdn. pilot of Hi Ho Silver June '44 to December '44, who became a Life Member when he joined 8/26/85; and Maj. Wilbur W. Nicoll (Ret), 3806 Pelzer Ave., Montgomery, AL., 323 sqdn. Sept. '43 to March '44. Flew as bombardier on Demo Darling and Fighting Pap-py; became a Life Member when he joined the Memorial Association.

Orlo G. Natvig, ex-324 Sqdn. radio operator, of Charles City, Iowa, has been elected the new National Commander of the American Ex-Prisoners of War organization at the group's national convention.

Natvig has been an officer of the Ex-Prisoners of War for six years, serving

three years as National Director, two years as National Junior Vice President, and one year as National Senior Vice Commander.

Orlo was shot down on September 27, 1943, and spent the rest of the war as a prisoner in Stalag XVIIB in Austria.

Four members of the crew of the 401st sqdn. plane "Broadminded" had a mini-reunion in South Attleboro and Pawtucket, R.I., August 2,3,4. Getting together were: William Bateman, pilot, Riverside, R.I.; Paul Kennedy, ball turret gunner, Pittsburgh, PA.; Joseph Hutton, tail gunner, Mobile, AL.; Joseph Colin Dawson, radio operator, Pawtucket, R.I.

After 40 years Dawson was also able to track down three other crew members, who could not attend but who had not been in touch with any other 91sters since 1950: Frank J. Nelson, co-pilot, Marysville, CA.; Harold Goldfarb, engineer, Queens, N.Y., and John F. Burchard, waist gunner, Cleveland, OH., who are now members of the Memorial Association. They are still trying to track down E.B. Palmer, gunner, last known to have lived in the Denver area, and the names of the ground crew of "Broadminded."

Homer Dumont, a 401st sqdn. radio operator shot down in June, 1944 and im-

prisoned until the end of hostilities, is now a disabled resident of the California Veterans home at Yountville. On August 14 three members of the Memorial Association visited Homer and presented him with a unique plaque commemorating the B-17's Fiftieth Anniversary as a reminder of their good wishes and moral support.

Allan Chapman, also an ex-401st radio operator, headed up the team, assisted by Nick Hyman, ex-322nd sqdn. engineer, and Association Sec.-Treas. George Parks, (ex-324-401 sqdn. engineer).

Second Vice-President Jack Paget was on the same plane with Dumont when it was shot down over Germany. Dumont evaded for four days before being picked up by the Germans.



Homer Dumont proudly displays the memorial plaque presented to him. Standing, l to r: Nick A. Hyman, Allan Chapman, and George W. Parks.

Since the July issue of the R/I we have learned of the deaths of a number of ex-91sters. They include:

Charles M. "Chuck" Kirkham, 67, ex-323 sqdn. pilot, and one of the Memorial Association's most active and devoted members, died unexpectedly June 15 at Tus-

caloosa, AL. He and most of his crew had been planning to make the Seattle Super Rally Round in July. The Kirkham crew had won the award for the most members present at the 1980, the 1982, and the 1984 reunions.

Chuck was a nominee for president of the 91st B.G. Memorial Association at the National Reunion in Colorado Springs in 1984.

He is survived by his wife Dorothy, P.O. Box 1159, Tuscaloosa, AL. 35403, his mother, two brothers, and three sisters.

Maj. Edward P. "Ted" Winslow (USAF Ret.), 1921 California St., Mountain View, CA., who died Sept. 19, 1985. Ted was a 322nd sqdn. bombardier on Frisco Jenny and Dame Satan. He was shot down on the first Schweinfurt mission August 17, 1943 and was a POW. He is survived by sons Edward P. Jr., and Robert.

Albert DiMinno, ex-322nd sqdn. radio operator and evadee, 304 Stanford St., Las Vegas, NV 89107, died May 17, 1985 of a cerebral hemorrhage. He is survived by his sister, Eleanor DiMinno, 2430 Lake Rd. N.W., Canton, OH. 44708.

Samuel M. Slaton, ex-323rd and Group bombardier, died May 31 in Kansas City, MO. of congestive heart failure.

Sam was the lead bombardier for the 8th AF on both the major Schweinfurt missions. With the 323rd he flew on Leland Forsblad's crew.

Jack Shaughnessy passes along the news that Maj. James J. Humphrey (USAF Ret.), 2215 Wheatfield Dr., Florissant, MO. 63033 died July 4, 1985. Jim was the engineer on Merrill E. LaPoint's crew on The Black Swan, 324th sqdn.

Ed Peacock sends along the information of the death of William F. Burke, 231 S. College St., Washington, PA., a member of the 322nd sqdn. Burke died April 6, 1985, at the Veterans Hospital in Pittsburgh with rheumatoid arthritis.

M/Sgt. Malcolm Coubrough (USAF Ret.), 4885 First St. N.E., Apt. 310, St. Petersburg, FL. 33703, ex-HQ sqdn. He is survived by his wife Mary.

William R. "Brownie" Brown, ex-401st sqdn. and POW after being shot down June 22, 1943, died December 12, 1984. He is survived by his wife Dorothy, P.O. Box 158, Humbolt, TN. 38343.