

43RD BOMB GROUP ASSOCIATION, INC. "KEN'S MEN"



NEWSLETTER 112th EDITION OCTOBER 2009

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BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Headquarters Squadron

C. Fred McAllister (2011)

63rd Squadron

Charles "Chuck" Rauch (2011)
James C. Dieffenderfer (2010)

64th Squadron

Robert W. Copper (2011)
Charles F. McClenny (2010)

65th Squadron

James W. Eide (2011)
Lehman C. White (2010)

403rd Squadron

Robert P. Mangan (2011)
Jack Strange (2010)

Past Presidents

Robert Butler 1981-1984*
George L. White 1985-1987*
William H. Wilson, Jr. 1988-1991*
Dale F. Barr, Jr. 1992-1993*
Max Osborn 1994-1995*
James T. Murphy 1996-1997*
Samuel F. Commons 1998-1999
Max M. Axelsen 2000-2001
Roger T. Kettleison 2002-2003
Charles Rauch 2004-2005
Jim Cherkauer 2006-2007
James Thompson Jr 2008

*=Deceased

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Many of you have just recently returned from San Antonio, host city of the 29th annual reunion. **Max Axelsen**, once again, did a great job of organizing this one.

The site for the 2010 Reunion, our 30th, will be Orlando, Florida. **Mrs. Nancy Solomon**, "Song Bird" of the 43rd will be the hostess. There have been invitations extended for hosting a 2011 Reunion, and this will be subject for discussion and action for the 2010 Board meeting and the group to vote upon.

Just a few weeks before this 2009 Reunion we had a phone call from L. C. "Chalky" White with the news that he and his wife, **Rosemary**, would be unable to attend the reunion because of his recent surgery. White is a 65th Squadron Director. A few weeks later **Betty Marsaglia** called to inform us that due to recent medical problems of her husband, **Don**, they were cancelling their trip to San Antonio and that **Don**, Vice President of this group, would be unable to continue in office.

Fortunately, in true 43rd tradition (READY, WILLING and ABLE), **DR. Arvid Houglum** accepted his nomination as Vice-President and was elected unanimously.

Houglum is a member of a special committee that was formed to plan strategies for these final golden years of the "old airmen" with this great association. Also on this group are **Max Axelsen**, **Roger Kettleison**, **James Dieffenderfer** and this writer.

A most important and exciting feature of this 2009 Reunion was the participation in the Parade and Graduation Ceremonies of the new airmen who had completed their basic training at Lackland Air Force Base. As we watched these young men and women, volunteers, march

past us in review, it was apparent that our country will be well served in the future. The parents, spouses, and other family members were gathered there with us and their pride glowed in the Texas sunshine. Those many years that have passed since we made similar marches were so fresh in memory, my thoughts were back those many decades ago and we all must do our share to see that these young military airmen will have the full support of our nation's leaders to provide them with all possible tools to succeed in the fulfillment of their missions.

Eldon 'Bud' Lawson

*****BOARD OF DIRECTORS*****

Minutes of the board of directors meeting on Wednesday September 23, 2009 at 7:00 PM, in the Memorabilia Room of the *Holiday Inn*, SAN ANTONIO RIVERWALK, 217 N. St. Mary's Street, San Antonio, TX 78205, submitted by Edward Gammill.

ATTENDEES: Eldon "Bud" Lawson, President; Roger Ketteson, Treasurer; Edward Gammill, Secretary; Fred McAllister, Headquarters Director; James Dieffenderfer, 63rd Director; Arvid Houghlum, 64th Director; Charles McClenny, 64th Director; James Eide, 65th Director; Robert Mangan, 403rd Director; Jack Strange, 403rd Director; Max Axelsen, Past President and Sponsor of the 2009 Reunion, Sam Commons, Past President and Sponsor of the 2008 Reunion; Nancy Solomon, , Susan Lanson and Michael LaVean, visitors. A motion, to approve the 2008 Board Meeting minutes as published in the October 2008 Newsletter, was made, seconded and passed.

2. The following treasurer's report was presented by Treasurer Roger Ketteson:

**43rd Bomb Group Association
01-01-2008 to 12-31-2008**

INCOME

Dues	\$	1,370.00
Life Member	\$	500.00
Donations	\$	50.00
Interest	\$	----
Refund 08 Reunion	\$	6,050.00
CD Canyon	\$	10,000.00

TOTAL	\$	17,970.00
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EXPENSES

Printing	\$	1,978.50
Postage	\$	747.86
Bulk Mailing Yearly Fee	\$	195.00
Web Site	\$	239.40
Office Supplies	\$	----
Contract Labor	\$	324.00
Gifts for '07	\$	----
2009 Reunion Advance	\$	6000.00

TOTAL	\$	9,484.76
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08/31/2009 Ending Balance	\$	15,379.03
Money Mkt. Acct# 1130676	\$	20,000.00
Money Mkt. Interest	\$	279.74
Net Worth	\$	35,658.77

3. Max Axelsen presented the physical and financial status of the 2009 San Antonio, TX Reunion. The report revealed a well organized program, which Max reported to be under budget. Approximately 85 will be in attendance.

4. Max Axelsen reported on the death of our first President and one of the founders of the Association **Robert Butler**. Max provided a floral tribute in the name of Ken'sMen. Jim Dieffenderfer, who attended, told of the large gathering for Bob's "Final Roll Call"

5. Ed Gammill, Group Recruitment, reported issuing 7 invitations and gaining 3 new Associate Members.

NEW BUSINESS

1. President Lawson reported that due to illness, Donald Marsaglia must resign the Vice President position. A nomination and election must be conducted in the General Group Meeting.

2. The Secretary reminded Headquarters, 63rd, 64th, 65th and 403rd Squadrons of Board members whose term expires December 2009. They were informed to elect a person to fill that vacancy at their Squadron Meetings.

3. Susan Lanson, Associate Member and daughter of Leonard Clark, 403rd Squadron, Pilot and Michael La Vean gave brief review of the George Mason University's archival activities. They also informed the Board, that a George Mason archivist would present a slide show with discussion of the University's capabilities during the General Meeting.

4. Nancy Solomon, the sponsor of the 2010 Reunion, reported her current status. The Reunion is scheduled to be in September 8 through 12 at CORONADO SPRINGS Convention Center, Lake Buena Vista, Florida. A motion was made, second and passed to provide \$6000 start-up funds for this activity.

5. President Lawson directed the formation of a committee composed of Jim Dieffenderfer, Arvid Houglum, Roger Kattleson, Max Axelsen and Eldon Lawson. The charter of this committee: To study the shut down of the 43rd Bomb Group Association, to investigate and propose a physical and financial program to be implemented upon the decision of the General Group Meeting that the Association should be closed.

6. President Lawson read the following e-mail from **Jim Cherkauer**, dated September 15, 2009.

REPORT ON STATUS OF 43RD HISTORY BOOK

It is difficult with any precision to state where our book stands at present. A bit over two months ago Larry had serious surgery for cancer in his neck close to his head. Fortunately, the doctors found that they did not have to sever any nerves and were able to remove the tumor without invasion of the brain, which was once feared. Larry has been undergoing radiation and chemotherapy for about two months.

Larry claims that our book is being worked, at this time, with one writer assigned and another helping as he can. I did receive Appendix III from the graduate student working this section. It is a listing of "all" of our aircraft including dates of manufacture, serial numbers, when the aircraft (A/C) first joined the Group, dates of loss or retirement, etc. When possible there is a list of pilots who flew each A/C as well as missions, in which, the A/C participated. I shared this appendix with every member of the association on my e-mail address list. I asked each to make any corrections, additions or other information about the A/C.

Meanwhile Larry had promised, on two occasions, to send me the 1945 partial draft of our history to read. I will not be doing proofreading, but I would be free to make any comments that I wish to make. To date I have received nothing. He did share the colored reproductions of several of our airplanes, but asked that they not be shared with others as they are copyrighted and will be in our history book. He does not want these circulated before publication.

I receive the usual promises that our book is nearly finished and should go to press this year. We have heard this for nearly 20 years, so I offer no date for its publication. Larry has hired a good staff and these people are working on the book. He has spent a fortune paying these people and having colored reproductions of 43rd aircraft using the most up-to-date methods. That is all well and good but I see no reason to think our

every fall. So writing apparently does not move at a smooth pace.

**Minutes of the General Meeting on Saturday, September 27, 2009 at 9:30 AM the *Holiday Inn*,
SAN ANTONIO RIVERWALK, 217 N. St. Mary's Street, San Antonio, Texas.**

The meeting was called to order by President Lawson at 9:35. "Bud" greeted all in attendance and lead the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

REPORTS

1. The Secretary's Report-A motion from the floor to accept the minutes as published in the October 2008 Newsletter was made and seconded. The motion was passed with thanks from a grateful Secretary.
2. Treasurer's Report: The Association financial status, as shown in the Directors Meeting above, was presented by Treasurer Roger Kettleson.
3. President Lawson asked for nominations for Vice- President. Sam Commons nominated Arvid J. Houghlum. Jim Dieffenderfer second the motion. Call for nominations from the floor yielded no response. Hearing no further nominations, the Chair declared Arvid to be elected by acclamation.
4. The Historian and Membership Committeeman gave their reports.
5. Max Axelsen reported the status of 2009 Reunion.
6. The group was informed that the 2010 Reunion will be hosted by Nancy Solomon, September 8 through 12, 2010, in Lake Buena Vista, Florida. A display of the facility is presented as an attachment to the newsletter. Nancy request patience and any assistance that you can give. More details for your planning will be in the January newsletter.
7. Michael La Veau introduced **Bob May, Archivist, George Mason University**. Bob presented an excellent visual display, with his narrative, about an archive's purpose and how the archivist handled and accomplish the reproduction of and the preservation of historical documents. He indicated the George Mason University would welcome all 43rd Bomb Group historical data.
8. **Fred Hagen** presented a visual review and narrative of his activities since September 2007. His last presentation was at the Philadelphia/Valley Forge Reunion. Fred was one of the sponsors of that reunion. Fred is still trying to clear several of his projects from foreign lands (the SWAMP GHOST remains in LAE) and continue with his restoration of WWII aircraft. Fred, we are very happy to have you back!

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None on the Board of Directors agenda.

NEW BUSINESS

1. 63rd Squadron reported the election of Charles Rauch as a Board Director to January 2012.
2. 64th Squadron reported the election of Robert Cooper as a Board Director to January 2012.
3. 65th Squadron reported the extension of James Eide as a Board Director to January 2012.
4. 403rd Squadron reported the extension of Robert Mangan as a Board Director to January 2012.

President Lawson declared the meeting closed.

THE SAN ANTONIO REUNION

The San Antonio Reunion was very enjoyable and there was a 62% increase in attendance! Max Axelsen planned and provided an excellent series of activities. The Holiday Inn, SAN ANTONIO RIVERWALK facilities, rooms, service and personnel were very good. There were several occasions when there was some scheduling problems, but we survived OK. The hours for the restaurant and the "Watering Hole" did not meet Ken'sMen's needs!

Activities: 1-Wednesday-The day was mostly for registration and Memorabilia Room. The Executive Board Meeting was conducted that evening and ended up in the "Watering Hole". 2- Thursday- After Breakfast the tour bus departed for the Institute of Texas Cultures. After approximately one hour of exploring the many cultures that make up Texans, we boarded a barge for a ride on the San Antonio River. A delightful

Welcoming Reception followed by the Squadron Meetings finished the day. 3- Friday- Continental Breakfast and off to Lackland AFB to attend the graduation parade of new enlisted men and women. These young people entered the service some 8 ½ weeks previously and now go on to their selected career goals. The tour departed Lackland AFB and visited the Mission at San Jose, the Alamo and San Fernando Cathedral, the oldest cathedral in the United States. After short bus tour of downtown San Antonio, the Group returned to the hotel. Friday evening-Mexican Fiesta Buffet with Mariachi musical group-they were very good.

4- Saturday-After our Continental Breakfast the General Meeting was conducted. Then there was time to do anything one wanted to do until the evening banquet.. The evening began with a photo session which was a mad house operation. I think the Squadron and Group photos will be unacceptable. After dinner, President Lawson introduced **Chaplain William H. Jacobs, Col. USAF Ret.** He gave a very inspirational talk, which was spiced with humor and light exercise for his audience. Then it was our opportunity to create Squadron photographs, each squadron was called to stand in front of the podium with the 43rd Banner in the background and all who had cameras were able to make their own photos, which I know will be better than was obtained by the commercial photographer. After we settled down, there were door prizes, which were given to the Association by **Artist David Schmietke**. The first was for the oldest member in attendance, the search started at age 90 years, as it increased to 94 years, **Arthur "Art" Mulligan, 64th Squadron, Pilot** was the only one standing. He received a beautiful painting of a P-51 in flight. Search for the youngest person in attendance was next, starting at 18 and at age 24, **Bassel Manhgoob, grandson of Ray and Betty Gates, 63rd Squadron, Flight Engineer** received the beautiful painting of a B-29 in flight. Next was the presentation of one of **Joe Snyder's** wooden masterpieces. A cane for **Andy Anderson**, Past Secretary of the Association. Due to health problems Andy was not present. The cane was displayed to all, I mailed it to Andy after returning home. I can tell you having a cane sure makes a difference how one is treated by airline personnel. Having one as beautiful as Joe's creation also attracts much attention by all people you contact. Finished the evening with dancing to that good 1940 music. 5- Sunday- Memorial Service which is presented tin MEMORIALS. Farewell buffet brunch, departures and promises to meet next year ended most of our activities.

The list of those attending the reunion is included as an attachment due to computer problems. The names are listed by SQUADRON and are in the same order as you signed in at the Registration Desk. Any errors in spelling are the result of my poor eye sight or your poor penmanship!

*****EDITOR'S and MEMBER'S REPORTS*****

"Our people, our empire, and indeed the whole English-speaking world are passing through a dark and deadly valley."

Winston Churchill

"He who does not economize will have to agonize."

Confucius

The first clue, for me, was a phone call from **Jo Bachi**. I do not know what happened to the paragraph at the top of page 2 of the July Newsletter! Further, Bud Lawson assured me that he did not wish to receive credit for the longest-unintelligible sentence ever written. As a result, I immediately went to my computer and reviewed the July Newsletter. I found no problem with the original electronic copy that I reproduced and sent to Elian. Sometimes computers/printers have a mind of their own. A copy of page 2 of the July newsletter is an attachment to this newsletter, so you may have a correction for your files.

In a note to Elain, in which he enclosed his annual dues, **Roger Little, 63rd Squadron, Pilot**, reported the following: "My wife, Norma passed away March 18, 2009. She was an Army Air Corps Veteran (WAC) and a Civil Air Patrol Pilot (J-3 CUBS)". Best Regards

Roger Little

Maurice Hesterman, 65th Squadron, Bombardier, brought his dues up-to-date with gusto as follows:

Dear Ms. Pierce

"I wish to apologize for not having kept my dues up-to-date, It won't happen again. I have enclosed payment for a Lifetime Membership!

Since I have already passed my 86th B.D. and am widely regarded as a very frugal person (note the stationary) this check might appear to becoming from a man who is not playing with a full deck. On the contrary-I've made a well calculated decision! My entire life has been patterned after that well-worn cliché "If I can't take it with me-I ain't going!"

In 2014 I'll save 20 bucks, in 2015 another \$20 -etc, etc. By 2020 I'll have \$140 in my saving account. With that and one or two more "stimulus" checks from our favorite Uncle and I might be able to attend a 43rd Reunion.

Now is that fugal? - or what"? Lifetime Member,

M. Hesterman

Maurice, you write an interesting letter. Your penmanship is outstanding. I hope you will make an effort to attend a future Reunion, as we continue this best of our activities. Ed

A new member, **Salvador S. Reyes and wife Norma**, 1665 Coolidge Street, Corona Hills, CA 92879, phone (951) 532-1030. Sal reports that he served with the 43rd Bomb Wing as an A&E Maintenance man at Davis Monthan AFB, Tucson, AZ from October 1954 to April 1958. Sal did not give his Squadron. He wishes to communicate with **Armando Perez** and **Ramon Patino** who were also members of the 43rd Bomb Wing.

Welcome aboard Sal, we need more of you who served with the 43rd Bomb Wing. Perhaps you can continue to contact any of your buddies from that era and invite them to join.

Lauren Gordon Mescon, 2 Bridgecreek Court, Columbus, GA 31904, phone (706) 221-5576 has become an Associate Member. Her father was **Robert Leon Gordon, 63rd Squadron, Bombardier**.

A new Associate Member, **Louise Voght Terrell**, 7318 Lightship Court, Burke, VA 22015. Her father, **William Paul Voght, 64th Squadron, Radio/Gunner** was member of **Frank Krones' Crew**.

Louise writes: "I have a lot of my dad's memorabilia and have researched extensively his time with the 43rd and also his follow-on deployment to the CBI." Additional information re S/Sgt Voght can be found on Ken's Men Message Board, dated Sun Apr 13, 2008 14:49.

Dr. Steve Feimer, 115 South Crawford Road, Vermillion, SD 57069, phone (605) 677-6468) is a new Associate Member. **Henry J. Kaufmann, 65th Squadron, Waist Gunner** was his uncle. Steve wrote the following to Elain: "Enclosed please find my one-year membership fee for the 43rd BG. My uncle Henry Kaufmann (see attachment) was killed in the action over New Guinea in 1943. He was a waist gunner on B-24D S/N 42- 41075. Any additional information or photos of his crew and plane would be greatly appreciated."

Thank you,

Steve Feimer

A phone call from **Chuck Raush** reports a new address for **Elizabeth Croft**, widow of William, 63rd Squadron: 2405 Patriot Heights Apt. 4219, Colorado Springs, CO 80904-5142 and phone (719) 667-5430.

July 20, 2009, I received the following letter from **Wendell Jones, 64th Squadron, Top Turret Gunner**: "My wife **Peggy**, and I attended **Bob Butler's** memorial services at Fayetteville, N.C. last Sunday, July 12. The program was very impressive as it included talks, by several speakers, about Bob's life and his accomplishments. References relating to the 43rd Bomb Group by all speakers were first and foremost. Speakers were, of course, the minister, **Dr. Ernie Johnson**: a long-time friend of Bob's, **Jim Warner**; Bob's son **Gregg**; and to my surprise, **Jim Dieffenderfer**. He and his wife had traveled from Orlando, FL for the occasion. No doubt, all of us in the Group are fortunate to have know Bob Butler."

Best wishes,

Wendell Jones

I received a letter from "Bud" Lawson. enclosing correspondence from **Dr. Steve Henry "Bud"**

65th Squadron, Aerial Gunner, who was lost in action November 22, 1943. His letter to "Bud" Lawson is included as an attachment.

An e-mail from **Rudy Arndt, 63rd Squadron, Radar Observer** gave the following information, which those who served on OWI will find of interest. "Attached is a copy of a topographic map of OWI Island, that I obtained directly from an engineer, **S/Sgt. Bob George** (the actual map-preparer). It was a Progress Report of 6 Aug 1944, of the status of the construction on the island. It shows wonderful details of the island and I hope you can publish it in our Assn. Newsletter sometime! It also shows the position of the **63rd Bomb Squadron** and the **43rd Group** living area.

Sorry I will be unable to attend the 2009 Reunion'.

Best, Rudy

The map with addition information is an attachment to this Newsletter.

An e-mail from Sam Commons: "I HAVE MOVED TO AN UP-SCALE 55 and over place! My new address is **SAM COMMONS, 2120 TWIN SILO DRIVE, BLUE BELL, PA 19422-3278**. Phone number is unchanged."

Received the following letter from **Eulamae Miller**, widow of **Robert Lee Miller**, Headquarters, Radio Operator. "I know your are all looking forward to your reunion this year. "Tod" enjoyed the reunion we attended in Virginia. He visited with two of his buddies he spent so long with in the Pacific, **David Iampeito** and **David DeMario**. We have lost **DeMario**, **Dehardt**, **Lee Menarik** and I've not had any answer to several letters to **William Richards** in Texas. I still hear from **Paul Homanin** Penn, and **Iampeitro** in Mass. I've also been in touch with **Ervin Champeau** in Minn. We also lost **Robert Morhart** of **Muscogee, OK**.

I'm enclosing a check, I hope it helps in some way. I just wish I could send more. I do still miss my Buddy, we shared so much in our 50 years together. I feel I became a part of the **43rd**, he shared so much with me.

I'm still working at 82, 83 in June, for the County Sheriff as Records Secretary. I do enjoy my work and meeting and helping people. I pray God's many blessing on all of you and all our veterans and active members of our Military.

Our son, **Tod Weston**, is a 1978 graduate of **West Point**. He resigned as Captain with the **1st CAV**.

Best to all,

Eulamae Miller

*****MEMORIALS*****

Received the following from **Garrett L. Minnick, 64th Squadron, Medical**: "My wife, **Mary**, passed away March 30, 2009 from an aneurism of the aorta, it was sudden and there was no chance to save her. It sure is sad here and I miss her very much. We had 44 years of life together and they were very good ones. We attended about 15 reunions together and really enjoyed them. We had hopes of being in **San Antonio**. Now I do no know.

My daughter and son-in-law, **Mike and Sally Jo Mitchell**, went with us to several reunions. Mike really hit it off with **Art Mulligan**, relating to railroading. Sally Jo and Mike are taking good care of me. Since I am 93, they are doing a good job.

I was a Medic in the **64th** from **Owi** to **Ie Shima** and was on hand when the Japs landed on their way to **Manila**. The "Kensmen web site" presents photos of the meeting and of the two **Betties**".

Respectfully,

Garrett L. Minnick

A letter from **Fran Cook** to **Howard Anderson** reported the following: "**Oscar M. Collins, 65th Squadron, Pilot** who lived in **Bakersfield, California** died on 12/4/07.

I just ran across one of your newsletters and didn't know if any family member had advised you. I'm **Oscar's** sister and I know how much he enjoyed the newsletters. I know how proud he was of his time in the service.

Our memorial service was held in the Tango 1 Room at *Holiday Inn* SAN ANTONIO-RIVERWALK. The welcoming and initiation of the service was by President Eldon "Bud" Lawson. Nancy Solomon accompanied by Pianist Mildred McClenny (wonderful to have Mildred and Charles McClenny with us again) sang "How Great thou Art"

Max Axelsen delivered the Invocation.

A director from each Squadron read the 2008-2009 list of departed 43rd Bomb Group Members.

63rd SQUADRON

Julian P. Stewart
Folmer J. Soraard
George L. Wyatt
Lee Bass, Jr.
Robert H. Butler
Norma Little
Wife of Roger

64th SQUADRON

William M. Browne, Jr.
Jack T. Nunnellee
Roy Burdoll Bailey
Dick Hill
Mary Minnick
Wife of Garrett

65th SQUADRON

Franklin "Jack" Rhodes
Oscar M. Collins
Jeanette Collins
Wife of Oscar

403rd SQUADRON

Neil R. Fairbanks
George R. Stahl
Roger J. Sullivan
Clinton A. Douthitt
Joseph Kent Milton

HEADQUARTERS

Ingrid Farha
Wife of Charles

**You are not forgotten, loved ones,
Nor will you ever be,
As long as life and memory last
We will remember thee**

Nancy sang TAPS acappella: **Day is done, gone the sun, From the hills, from the lake, From the sky. All is well, safely rest, God is nigh.**

Fades the light; And afar Goeth day, And the stars Shineth bright, Fare thee well; Day has gone, Night is on.

Thanks and praise, For our days, 'Neath the sun, Neath the stars, 'Neath the sky, As we go, This we know, God is nigh.

Nancy and Mildred, with all present, closed the MEMORIAL SERVICE by singing "God Bless America"

*******43rd HUMOR*******

There's always a lot to be thankful for, if you just take time to look for some. For example, I am sitting here right now thinking how nice it is "that wrinkles do not hurt!"

Advice

"If you want a friend in Washington, get a dog." President Harry Truman
NEVER: Under any circumstances, take a sleeping pill, and a laxative on the same night!

Life should NOT be a journey to the grave with the intention of arriving safely in an attractive and well preserved body, but rather to skid in sideways, chocolate in one hand, body thoroughly used up, totally worn out and screaming "WAH WOO"—WHAT A RIDE!

From Jim Dieffenderfer

A teacher is explaining biology to her 4th grade students. 'Human beings are the only animals that stutter,' she says. A little girl raises her hand. "I had a kitty-cat who stuttered." The teacher knowing how precious some of these stories could become, asked the girl to describe the incident.

"Well," she began 'I was in the back yard with my kitty, when the Rottweiler that lives next door got a running start and before we knew it, he jumped over the fence into our yard!'"

"That must have been scary," said the teacher. "It sure was" said the little girl. "My kitty raised her back and hair, went Sssss, Ssssss and Sssssss" and before she could say 'Shit' the Rottweiler ate her!"

The teacher had to leave the room.

1. Pick up cat and cradle it in the crook of your left arm as if holding a baby. Position right forefinger and thumb on either side of cat's mouth and gently apply pressure to cheeks while holding pill in right hand. As cat opens mouth, pop pill into mouth. Allow cat to close mouth and swallow.
2. Retrieve pill from floor and cat from behind sofa. Cradle cat in left arm and repeat process.
3. Retrieve cat from bedroom, and throw soggy pill away.
4. Take new pill from foil wrap, cradle cat in left arm, holding rear paws tightly with left hand. Force jaws open and push pill to back of mouth with right forefinger. Hold mouth shut for a count of ten.
5. Retrieve pill from goldfish bowl and cat from top of wardrobe. Call spouse from garden.
6. Kneel on floor with cat wedged firmly between knees, hold front and rear paws. Ignore low growls emitted by cat. Have spouse to hold head firmly with one hand while forcing wooden ruler down into mouth. Drop pill down ruler and rub cat's throat vigorously.
7. Retrieve cat from curtain rail, get another pill from foil wrap. Make note to buy new ruler and repair curtains. Carefully sweep shattered figurines and vases from hearth and set aside for gluing later.
8. Wrap cat in large towel and get spouse to lie on cat with head just visible from below armpit. Put pill in end of drinking straw, force mouth open with pencil and blow down the drinking straw.
9. Check label to make sure pill not harmful to humans, drink one beer to take taste away. Apply Band-Aid to spouse's forearm and remove blood from carpet with cold water.
10. Retrieve cat from neighbor's shed. Get another pill. Open another beer. Place cat in cupboard, and close door on neck, to leave head showing. Force mouth open with dessert spoon. Flick pill down throat with elastic band.
11. Fetch screwdriver from garage and put cupboard door back on hinges. Drink beer. Fetch bottle of scotch. Four shot, drink. Apply cold compress to cheek and check records of date of last tetanus shot. Apply whiskey compress to cheek to disinfect. Toss back another shot. Throw Tee shirt away and fetch new one from bedroom.
12. Call fire department to retrieve the damn cat from across the road. Apologize to neighbor who crashed into fence while swerving to avoid cat. Take last pill from foil wrap.
13. Tie the little bastard's front paws to rear paws with garden twine and bind tightly to leg of dining table, find heavy-duty pruning gloves from shed. Push pill into mouth followed by large piece of filet steak. Be rough about it. Hold head vertically and pour 2 pints of water down throat to wash pill down.
14. Consume remainder of scotch. Get Spouse to drive you to the emergency room, sit quietly while doctor stitches fingers and forearm and removes pill remnants from right eye. Call furniture shop on way home to order new table.
15. Arrange for SPCA to collect mutant cat from hell and call local pet shop to see if they have any hamsters.

How To Give A Dog A Pill

1. Wrap it in bacon.
2. Toss it in the air.

*****INFORMATION*****

This newsletter is published four times a year - **January, April, July and October**. Please send **membership applications and dues payments** to **Elain Pierce, P.O. Box 84, Snyder, TX 79550**. Please keep in mind that annual dues are **\$20.00 per year** and life membership is **\$100.00**. Please make the check to the **43rd Bomb Group Association**.

Send items for the Newsletter to **Ed Gammill at 5337 E. Earll Drive., Phoenix, AZ 85018-8045** or via e-mail to **Edgammill@aol.com**. Any material received after the 15th of the month prior to a publication month probably will not appear in that publication.

The Postal Service **will not forward** this newsletter. If you change your address please **notify Ed Gammill** at the address shown above. Send all changes of phone numbers, etc. also.

*****ATTACHMENTS*****

- 1-2009 Reunion Attendance Listing
- 2-Page 2 of the July Newsletter
- 3-OWI Island topographic map created by S/Sgt. Bob George
- 4-Steve Feimer's letter to Bud Lawson
- 5-An e-mail from Max Axelsen
- 6-Layout of the 2010 Reunion Facility
- 7-How to earn a free day of Disney-style fun (News Paper article from Nancy Solomon)

20009 REUNION ATTENDEES

63rd SQUADRON

Edward Gammill
F. Neal Fugate
De De Fugate
Ada Jo Bachi
Betty Fleharty
Jim Dieffenderfer
Micky Murphy
Oliver P. Street
Ray Crawford
Dorthy Crawford
Gerald Egger
Maru Lade
Steve Lade
Raymond Gates
Betty Gates
Bassel Mahgoub
Helen L. Green
Shirley Lindquist
Ann Fletcher
Bob Fletcher
Fred Hagen

HEADQUARTERS SQUADRON

Gordon F. Bavor
Bettu Bavor
Fred McAlister
Marine McAlister

64th SQUADRON

Lyle Heineke
Betty Heineke
Arvid Hougum
Gerry Hougum
Bob Cooper
Hazel Taff
Joyce Rodella
Roger Kattleson
Audrey Kattleson
Al Haas
Lorraine Ross
Ralph Grubb
Dan Grubb
Wendall Jones
Charles McClenny
Mildred
McClenny
Jesse Fulton
Carl Gifford
Falena Gifford
Pamela Mulligan
Arthur Mulligan
Beverlee Mulligan
Fames Rodella
Joe Cox
Dolores Cox
Ray Harper

65th SQUADRON

Eldon E. Lawson
Steve Nally
Amy Nally
Jim Eide
Steve Eide
Tom Jamison
Harold Scoggins
Olive Scoggins
Don Williams
Wayne Downing
Norrie Rawdon
Sam Commons
Wilton Thomas
Milton K. Bass
Imogene Bass
Victoria Calder
Steve Feimer

403rd SQUADRON

Max Axelsen
Frank Drab
Peg Drab
Joe Snyder
Sally Snyder
Bob Mangan
Nancy Solomon
Susan Lanson
Michael La Vean
Rick Lloyd
Tom Strange
Jack H. Strange
Wade T. Kehr
Lucia Kehr
Bob May

43rd BOMB WING

Robert M. Perez
Lupe Rerez
Sal Reyes
Norma Reyes
Vic Guerrero
Mary Ann Guerrero

Now, 2009, we are near the close of our reunion activity, so important to all of us, but those established goals and purpose of this association still exists, and hopefully will continue. In all History of the World, the era of the "Free World" is a tiny segment of that time. An innate danger of freedom, is the attitude of free citizens that it is free. It has become a hackneyed expression that freedom is NOT free, but the struggle for true, universal freedom continues in the world. The history of the world and the role of the 43rd Bomb Group then and since has an important lesson for those who must continue the fight to be free. We believe that this association will continue beyond the years of reunions. This continuation is the legacy of their fight for that freedom, as in again the words of "Coach" Shea in that January 1982 Newsletter, "-----whatever service to others we accomplish so as to build community, can be offered in the name of our departed comrades as a trace to them."

Bud Lawson

*****EDITOR'S and MEMBER'S REPORTS*****

"And for the support of this Declaration, with a firm reliance on the protection of divine providence, we mutually pledge to each other our lives, our fortunes, and our sacred honour."

Thomas Jefferson

Change of address for **Lester L. and Valerie Moore, 403rd Squadron, Nose Gunner: 23076 Ladder Avenue, Marshall, MO 65340.**

After receiving an E-mail from **Joseph Bass**, I asked Joseph for additional information about his father. This is his reply: "I don't know the exact dates that my dad was drafted. He and his classmates were seniors in high school. He received his GED after he returned. If he was held back like he said, then he would have graduated in 1945. So he must have had time to be trained in gunnery school before he was shipped out to the Philippines. He remembered when the Japanese brass stopped at his forward airfield on an island to switch to a C-47 and continue to the meeting with MacArthur for the surrender.

He was never one to embellish his stories, but he told me a few years ago that their last mission was for weather reconnaissance over Hiroshima. Probably one of many that were flying at that time. He had just turned twenty years old, when he learned that an "atom bomb" was dropped on Japan. He told me no one was really sure what that was.

His squadron (63rd) as you know, flew black B-24 Liberators on night missions. They were called "SEAHAWKS." He said it was terrifying being shot at while being lit up with spotlights. He started as a Ball Turret Gunner, but was moved to the Nose Turret position. He also said he saved his bus money and hitchhiked back to Oklahoma because it was easy to get a ride if you were wearing the uniform.

You might be surprised to learn that my dad was a full-blood Sac and Fox Indian. He was buried with full Military Honors in a traditional ceremony only a couple of miles from where he was born. We will always be proud of our father's service to this county and of all veterans service. I thank all of you."

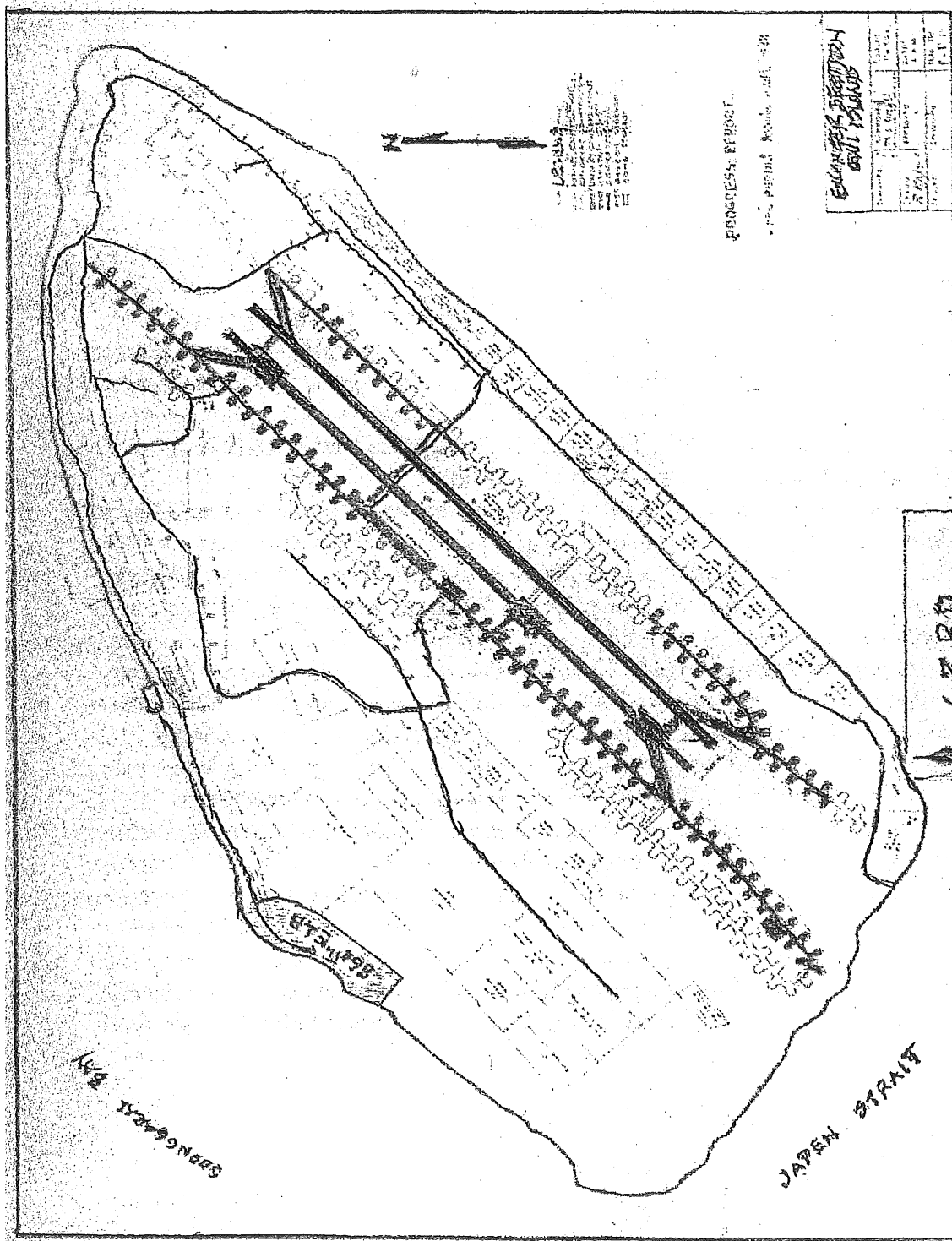
Sincerely, Joseph Bass

A MYSTERY RESOLVED

Eldon H. Lawson

For 64 years I've searched for an Eldon Lawson of Missouri--no, not me, another Eldon Lawson, and now I've finally located him. Here's how I learned of him. In September 1945 at Ie Shima, the mail Sergeant of the 65th Squadron called out to me after I picked up my mail. He said, "Lieutenant, I'm sure glad that you always use your middle initial E, because we have another Eldon Lawson in this outfit." As I expressed surprise, maybe doubt, the Sergeant produced a letter addressed to Sgt. Eldon D. Lawson postmarked, Kirksville, MO. I began to inquire of Sgt. Lawson, but soon learned he had "shipped out." I was surprised that I had not heard of him before.

Some years since, during genealogical research I exchanged Lawson family history with a man form



PROGRESS REPORT AUG. 6, 1944

OWI ISLAND

63RD
BOMB
SQUADRON

Notes: Topographic map of OWI Island, made by the original surveyor, S/Sgt. Bob George, of the engineers, who made the initial survey of the island (in June 1944). The coral surface was amazingly level in the 6 ft. tall kunai grass, over 7000+ span.

Hi Ed, Thanks for your prompt reply, and here is requested info.: **Arndt, Rudolph P.**, 1st Lt., Air Corps (ret.) and joined the 43rd Assn some 10 years ago. I was at Owi from Sept. 1, 1944 to Jan. 10, 1945, attached to the **63rd Bomb Sq.**, and a member of the Ferret Detachment (Sec. 22, GHQ). There I flew on 12 combat (lone reconnaissance) missions, as the **Radar Observer**, on **Atom Smasher and Duchess of Paducah B-24's**, both being the first specially-equipped aircraft for detecting and locating enemy radar installations. Have looked up original info. and these two were B-24D's. Details re. my flight to Leyte on Jan. 10, 1945 with your group's nightly shuttle, are in the Newsletter 85th Edition, Jan 2003.. I was sent back to the USA after 2 weeks at Tacloban, Leyte. Of course, little of this possibly bears repetition.

One or two other entries in the Newsletter related to me in the past too. It seems that no others of our Ferret Detachment ever managed to find and join the 43rd Bomb Group Assn, and my efforts at locating several of them have failed (via internet, phone books). At my age, 91 years, possibly few if any remain, unfortunately. . I know you are expert at "finding" people from the past but do not wish to burden you with any such.

Extra info. that I rec'd. from **Bob George** re. Owi Island is that the level of the already existing coral surface initially varied only 1 foot in over 7000 ft. of desired runway length!!! What a near-miracle for the creation of our airfield there. The engineers wondered if all of our military equipment would "sink" the island appreciably!! He wore out 2 pair of jungle boots in surveying the whole perimeter of the island, and contracted scrub typhus a little later. Fortunately he recovered, and he states that the overall recovery rate was only 17% due of course of lack of any knowledge about treatment, other than rest, proper diet, etc.

B. George is irked that Owi Island has received so little attention! I found the experience there was memorable, and have worn out family members with retelling the stories. "We" lived right in the 63rd Sq. tent area, and your crews took turns flying the two Ferret aircraft on the missions. Perhaps that is enough of the old experiences, and I will quit right here with the letter. Thanks again for answering and planning on including the map in October! Best regards, Rudy



The University of South Dakota.

Mr. Eldon "Bud" Lawson
23942 Wolf Road
Bay Village, OH 44140

July 22, 2009

Dear Mr. Lawson,

First, I want to thank you for taking the time this morning to visit with me about my late uncle S/Sgt. Henry J. "Bud" Kaufmann, aerial gunner 5th Air Force, 43rd BG, 65th BS who was died on November 22nd, 1943 near Morobe Harbor, New Guinea. I have enclosed information regarding his aircraft, mission, and crew. We do not have any pictures of him, his plane, or crew while he was overseas. If there is any possibility of acquiring photos or copies of photos we would greatly appreciate it.

I do plan to visit the wreck site in New Guinea and if you have any contact who might be able to provide assistance, information, or direction I would be most grateful.

Again, thank you for your good help.

Sincerely,

Dr. Steve Henry "Bud" Feimer, Director
Criminal Justice Studies
The University of South Dakota
Room 119 Dakota Hall
Vermillion, South Dakota 57069

P.S. I would appreciate any information on the 43rd Bomber Group reunion.



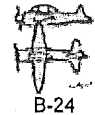
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B-24D-130-CO *Liberator* Serial Number 42-41075

USAAF
5th AF
43rd BG
65th BS

Pilot 2nd Lt Francis D. Brechak, O-888720
Co-Pilot 2nd Lt Ambrose F Broughton Jr, O-799725 (KIA) MA
Navigator 2nd Lt Lawrence B. Studley, O-804896
Bombardier 2nd Lt Philmore H. Green Jr., O-734894
Engineer T/Sgt Robert H. Shaw, 39309364 (KIA) OR
Assist. Engineer S/Sgt Gerald B Brown, 35368089 (KIA) IN
Radio S/Sgt Ralph G. Reed, 15375853 (KIA) IL
Assist. Radio S/Sgt Thomas S Freeman, 37231081 (KIA) KS
Gunner S/Sgt Henry J Kaufmann, 19145917
Gunner S/Sgt Floyd I Wise, 37259917
Crashed November 22, 1943
MACR 1221



B-24



Aprox
8° 15' 0S
147° 4' 0E

Aircraft History

Engines: R183043 Serial Numbers: 4288748, 4288750, 4288718, 4288857

Mission History

While returning from a mission against Gasmata, this plane left the formation due to cloud, and was not seen again, although it radioed its position at 1245/L that he was over Morobe Harbor, and that it was trying to rejoin the formation.

Wreckage

The missing bomber was located by mission priest in December 1943 near Kerau in the Owen Stanley Mountains.

Memorials

Several of the crew are buried at 'Honolulu Memorial Cemetery'. Brown is buried at Plot A Row 0 Grave 942. Freeman is buried at Plot A Row 0 Grave 275. Reed is buried at Plot A Row 0 Grave 37. Shaw is buried at Plot B Row 0 Grave 1090. Shaw is buried at Plot B Row 0 Grave 1090. Broughton is buried at Plot A Row 0 Grave 72.

Contribute Information

Do you have photos or additional information to add?

Last Updated

December 15, 2008

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NAVIGATION ▾

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Subj: **Reunion visitors and guests.**
 Date: 10/9/2009 1:16:41 PM US Mountain Standard Time
 From: axelsen1@sbcglobal.net
 To: Edgammill@aol.com
 Sent from the Internet ([Details](#))

We enjoyed having a number of interesting and informative visitors and guests at our reunion. Among them was Susan Lanson, Michael Lavean, and Robert Vay. Susan's father, Major L. Clark, was commander of the 403rd Squadron early in 1944. Bob Vay is associated with the Special Collections & Archives Division at George Mason University Libraries. He presented an interesting briefing to our Group as to the methods used in collecting and preserving historical artifacts. Susan & Michael are most supportive of retaining the history of the 43rd's involvement in the Southwest Pacific Area during WW11. The bio of Leonard Clark, and his picture is on the "Wall of Honor" at the Air and Space Museum.

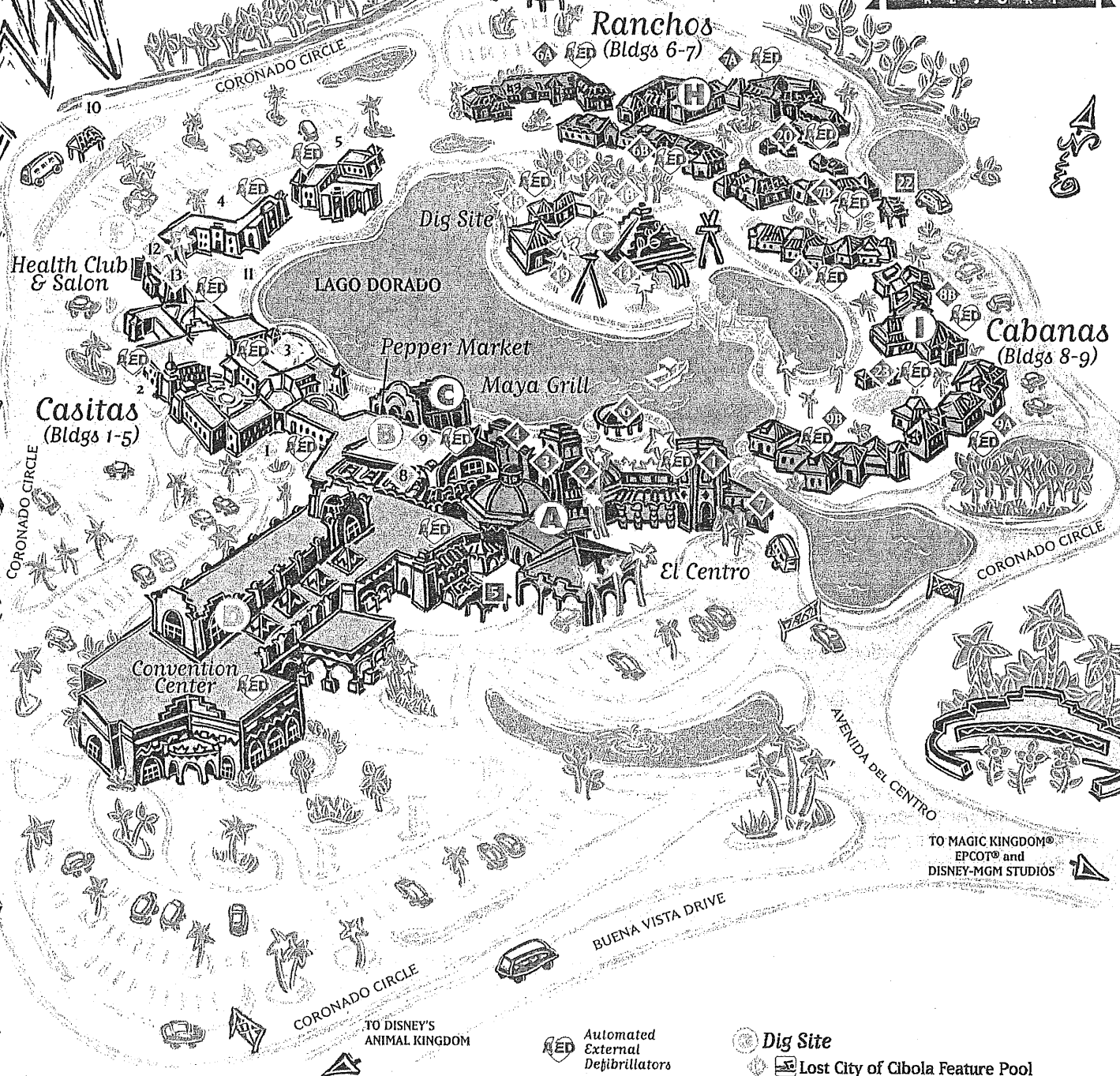
Dr. Steve H. Feimer, Professor (Doctorate in Criminology) The University of South Dakota, attended for a couple of days. He sent his thanks for the opportunity to attend the reunion after returning to So. Dakota....."quote - It was indeed an honor to be in the company of such a group of american heroes. For me, it was a great privilege to meet with members of the same bomb group that my late uncle S/Sgt Henry J. "Bud" Kaufmann, was assigned to (Waist Gunner, 43rd Bomb Group, 65th Squadron). My uncle was killed in action near Kerau, New Guinea on November 22nd, 1943 while returning from a mission over Gasmata". Dr. Feimer also sent a disk of photos that we hope to include into the forthcoming Dunning Picture book of reunion folks and events.

It was nice to have Mickey Murphy with us and her companion...Maj/General (Ret.) Oliver C. Street.
 It's always great to have those army gents with us!! We were once of those " Band of Brothers"...Army.

Also in attendance, Col. (Ret) Kent E. Harbaugh and Kathy Ehlers (Daughter of Melville " Dutch " Ehlers) one of the early B-17 pilots in the 43rd Groups warriors in the SWPA.

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- and Guest Laundry

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- ◆ Explorer's Playground
- ◆ Volleyball Court

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- 21 BUS STOP 3: RANCHOS
- 22 BUS STOP 4: RANCHOS & CABANAS

I Cabanas

- ◆ Cabanas Quiet Pool and Guest Laundry

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To your room from El Centro and the Convention Center: Board any Downtown Disney®/Disney's BoardWalk bus at Bus Stop 1.

Casitas (Bldgs 1-5)

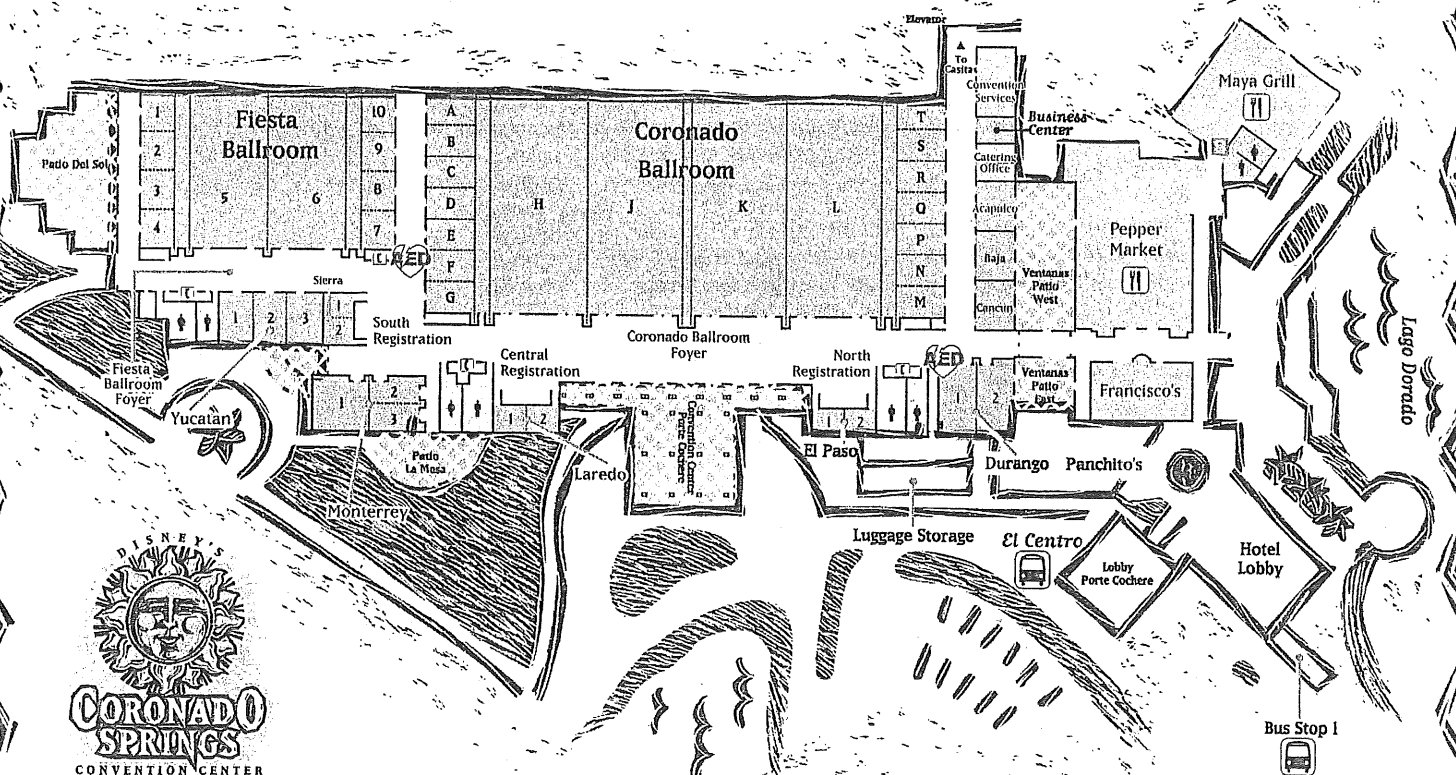
Building No.	Room No.
1	1110-1491
2	2110-2457
3	3110-3497
4	4100-4467
5	5100-5447

Ranchos (Bldgs 6-7)

Building No.	Room No.
6A	6100-6337
6B	6500-6773
7A	7100-7393
7B	7500-7793

Cabanas (Bldgs 8-9)

Building No.	Room No.
8A	8100-8257
8B	8500-8683
9A	9100-9283
9B	9500-9657



GIVE MICKEY A DAY

The "Give a Day, Get a Disney Day" program will provide certified volunteers with a one-day ticket to any park at Disneyland in Anaheim, Calif., or Walt Disney World near Orlando in 2010.

- ➔ Would-be volunteers must register online at www.DisneyParks.com, beginning in January, and must be residents of the U.S., Canada or Puerto Rico to be eligible.
- The work must be performed in 2010, and the park visit must take place by Dec. 15, 2010.
- ✓ ■ Participants must be 18 or older to sign up, but volunteer work done by children ages 6-17 qualifies for a free ticket as long as the children are accompanied by an adult when volunteering.
- ✓ ■ Unused admission certificates can be donated to a charity designated by Disney.

A day of service will get you a day of Disney-style fun

NO DOWN SIDE: Analysts say initiative is a winner for the company

By BETH J. HARPAZ
AP Travel Editor

NEW YORK — Disney is offering a free day's admission to a million guests who complete a day of volunteer work next year.

The "Give a Day, Get a Disney Day" program will provide certified volunteers with a one-day ticket to any park at Disney-

land in Anaheim, Calif., or Walt Disney World near Orlando in 2010.

Disney is partnering with HandsOn Network, a clearinghouse for volunteer opportunities, to connect people with projects and to certify that the work was done.

"We are trying to inspire 1 million people to volunteer in their communities and we're inspiring them to do that by giving them a free day at a Disney park," Jay Rasulo, chairman of Walt Disney Parks and Resorts, said in a phone interview

with The Associated Press.

Rasulo called the promotion "very timely" citing the increased needs of nonprofits in the weak economy, as well as President Obama's national volunteering initiative.

"The spirit of our country is very much behind that, whether it's the first family or whether it's the average family," Rasulo said.

Duncan Dickson, who teaches theme park management at the University of Central Florida's Rosen School of Hospitality

See DISNEY on 6D

DISNEY from 1D

Management in Orlando, said the volunteer initiative is "a smart marketing move."

Dickson said Disney will get good buzz for encouraging volunteerism, plus free publicity from the nonprofits that benefit. And even when theme parks let people in for free, they make their money back in other ways, Dickson said.

"You make a lot of money in popcorn and T-shirts and other things," Dickson said.

Some guests who come in for free would have bought tickets anyway, but the offer will also bring in visitors who would not otherwise have made the trip, Dickson added, and they will bring paying guests with them.

"Anything that pushes the turnstiles is good for business," Dickson said.

- ➔ HandsOn Network has 70,000 affiliated agencies, from Habitat for Humanity to local food banks, churches, health care centers, and educational programs.

➔ Once their service is verified by HandsOn, volunteers print out an online certificate that can be redeemed at a Disney park.

The free admission offer is part of a larger trend in the tourism industry, using everything from free hotel nights to two-for-one discounts to attract visitors in the weak economy. Disneyland this year offered two free nights with the purchase of three nights at a Disney resort, and all the U.S. Disney parks have allowed guests in free on their birthdays this year.

Rasulo said that 3.5 million people registered for the birthday promotion and about 30 percent of them have taken advantage of it so far.

Disney kicked off the volunteer promotion Tuesday by sending 1,000 volunteers, including employees from Disney and Southwest Airlines, to work on projects around the country, from a Habitat for Humanity site in Los Angeles to the Bethune School of Excellence in Chicago.

➔ Examples of volunteer opportunities listed on HandsOn's Web site range from drivers and bingo callers to a book drive organizer at a senior center in Scranton, Pa., to a docent at the Oregon Maritime Museum in Portland.

➔ Volunteers who have multiday tickets or annual passes can get a special Fast-pass for up to six people in lieu of the voucher. Fast-passes allow visitors to bypass lines at the parks' most popular attractions.

Financial analysts who follow Disney said there was no downside to the promotion.

"It's a nice thing, it's a very socially responsible thing," said Michael Nathanson of Sanford C. Bernstein & Co. in New York.

"I don't look at this as a tremendous cost for Disney," said Alan Gould of Natixis Bleichroeder Inc. in New York.

"It could stimulate some incremental demand as well. It certainly is good publicity and economically it could make sense."