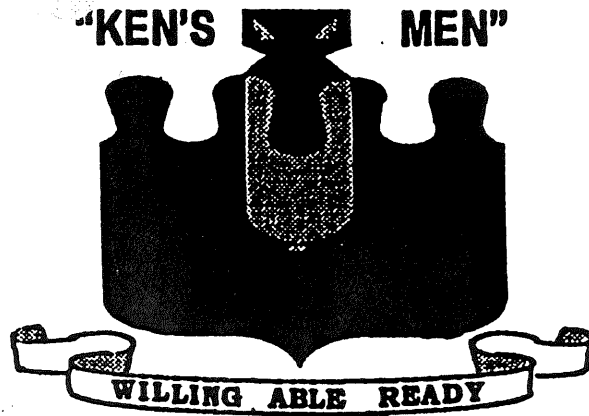


43RD BOMB GROUP ASSOCIATION, INC.



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43rd Bomb Group Association, Inc.
57th Edition, Jan. 1996

NOTES FROM MAX OSBORN

Now the reins of this organization are in safe hands. President **JIM MURPHY**.

I have received many letters since our last newsletter and am taking this opportunity to share the words of wisdom to our members.

DICK WOOD, our in-house lay minister, who conducted our memorial services, suffered a stroke shortly after our reunion, at his California residence. I had tried to call a couple of times, but he was apparently still hospitalized. Seems he has two horizons, which makes aircraft operation difficult, together with other attendant problems that come with a stroke. Hope you are getting better by the time you read this, **DICK**.

Have had several communications from **JANICE OLSON** of Apple Valley. She wrote a long account of her visit to New Guinea after the reunion, much of which will be in the history when it is published. I told her I had two pictures of her from the reunion, both with her mouth open, and she replied there is no known picture with her mouth closed.

FRED and **MAURINE McALLISTER**, of Dallas, wrote their appreciation of the Cheyenne reunion. They go to a territory, not a place, as they came here early, toured Nebraska, South Dakota, and Wyoming before and after hitting Cheyenne.

BOB CLAYCOMBE, of Indianapolis expressed his and his crews' appreciation of the reunion and promised to make the next. Sent a picture of the two of us which he made me promise to treasure.

SAM COMMONS sent his appreciation and cartoons depicting the vagaries of golf and wants to set up a foursome in Florida. Our fearless leader, Max the Ax sets those up but if we get there soon, **SAM** maybe we can induce **BUD LAWSON** to play with us, along with **ART DURBECK**.

ALICE and **JOSH BARNES** sent a beautiful thank you note with our Xmas card, extolling the beautiful time at the reunion. Mostly it was in **ALICE'S** words, since **JOSH** still has some of that Squadron Commander syndrome left in his composure.

BUD LAWSON sent a note to **FRAN** complaining about my want on denigration of his name and reputation by blaming him for the golf trophy misplacement. **BUD**, I didn't know it was possible to insult you, let alone demote you. **BUD** had also superimposed a young picture of a handsome fellow in uniform with Bombardier's wings claiming it was him in 1946. **BUD**, we know better.

RUSS and **JANE BURNETT** remembered with a Xmas card the memories of the reunion. They had previously written about their appreciation of the "Cowboy Supper" and the country music. Hats from all 12 reunions are proudly possessed by **BOB ROTHAS** depicted in his picture to me. He also sent pictures of his license plates he labored so hard to get.

LYLE HEINEKE dropped a note that he renewed friendships he wouldn't have remembered if he hadn't seen the friends at the reunion and promised to be at Kissimmee.

PAUL COBER reported the only thing wrong with the reunion is that he and his wife had colds and had to go to Phoenix to recuperate.

DICK COOPER, homebound on the shores of Lake Erie wrote a nice letter wishing he could have been at the reunion. Wanted a copy of Jim Murphy's book, which I trust he has by now since I pointed him the right way. He still had orders returning him from New Guinea together with my name on the orders.

MAX AXELSON, in charge of the Memorial at Lackland, had earlier reported an impasse on the project, but under date of Dec. 20, 1995 sent a copy of a letter from the Vice Commander at the base informing **MAX** the Ax that he would be contacted to arrange construction details. We all owe **MAX** a big "atta-boy" for his determined efforts to effect this very important memorial to our 43rd Group.

Was able to get an additional 65th photo for **BOB** and **IRENE WATSON** from our photographer. **IRENE** sent me a bill to cover the cost which means I have to buy her a drink in Kissimmee. The photographer also gave me his left-over snaps which I was able to send to a few of the group that were recognizable in the photos.

MARY LOIS and **BILL WILSON** sent season greetings with the particular appreciation by **MARY LOIS** for the fashion show as it reminded her of hearing her grandmother and aunt recalling what they wore to weddings or social events of long ago.

ROGER and **AUDREY KETTLESON** reported in that **GLEN REAM** 64th, who was with us in Cheyenne, had passed away in November. They provided a floral arrangement from the 43rd. **GLEN** was a pilot of Gen. Whitehead, after his 43rd combat missions until the end of WWII.

MAX AXELSON expressed thanks for he and **MARGARET** reported the golf turnout was the best ever. There were 38 hard souls on the coldest day of the reunion. It prepared **GEORGE WHITE** for the little snowstorm being born by those in New Jersey. I called **GEORGE** to see if he needed anything and he needed two things--someone to help him shovel the snow and more Merlot wine.

Group Leader, **JIM PETTUS**, sent me the 4 B-24's print endorsed by his signature. I had the 5th AF logo and the 43rd logo imposed on it together with backing and it now adorns my wall by the sectional of New Guinea. Also favored me with photo prints of the arrival of the Japanese surrender party on Ie Shima.

I had called **CARRIE NELSON**, wife of Governor and Senator **GAYLORD NELSON** regarding the news article of finding the remains of her brother Sgt. **DELMAR DOTSON**. She sent me more articles concerning the matter and I contacted **JANICE OLSON** about our conversation, since **JANICE** had a part in the recovery of the aircraft and remains. Janice wrote to me that she had some log books containing the fact Dotson had flown with **HANK DYMINSKI**. **DYMINSKI** was my pilot for a time in Port Morseby when I was in B-17s and it is probable that Dotson and I flew on some missions but of course I can't remember that. I sent a copy of our newsletter to Ms. Nelson. One of the amazing things she reported to me was that CID was doing a DNA match-up with her and her brother.

JIM DEFENDERFER reports he will be ready for us in Kissimmee, so I'll see you all there.

It's time for another newsletter. So here we go--The 1996 Roster is at the printers -- Hope to mail it the week of January 15th and the newsletter about the same time.

DAYTON and **ANN BLANCHARD**, 65th Pilot, are settled in their new location, Cloudcroft, N.M. **ANN** is doing well with her paintings and **DAYTON** is being a good-boy. Hope to see them this summer.

DONNA BAKER ALEXANDER, **DON BAKER'S** daughter, sends her thanks to all the 43rd for their support at **DON'S** passing.

GEN and **DALE BARR**, 403rd, sent in Christmas and New Year Best Wishes to all. They also sent a picture of a model sailing ship he had built. I knew he was the Worlds Best Granddad, but I didn't know he was a skilled model Ship Builder--Sails and All.

BOB ROTH, 403rd, is keeping me informed about Black Sunday. From the report, I thought that I only ran into Bad Weather. If you have any interest or made the mission, drop **BOB** a note.

JIM and **MICKEY MURPHY**, 63rd, "Our New President" talked with **FRED BLAIR**. **FRED** had "Down Under" reprinted. The book is very good--mostly pictures. It was the first printed in 1943, I think. The new book is better--You need this in your library. (Price is \$29.95). **FRED BLAIR** 16 Old Saddle Rd. Ridge NY 11961--phone number (516)924-2273. Besides all that **FRED'S** one of my "Good Boys" and his wife is super.

DIED
FEB, 1996

+ \$3.00

BOB ROTH, 403rd, advises us **FRED SCHWIND** has passed away and **FRED'S** wife is in a nursing home. My very good friend, Sgt. **JIM SHROPSHIRE**, was **FRED'S** boss.

JOE C. COX JR., 64th Director, advises that **C.A. "ANDY" ANDRUS** passed away January '95. **ANDY** was a bombardier on **CHET LOWES** crew.

WALTER B KICHURA, 403rd, has been on sick call but is trying hard for our next reunion at Kissimmee St. Cloud.

DEAN S. PAGE, Headquarters, sent in '96 dues and extra for someone that is a little short--**DEAN** has already turned me down so let me know if we can help.

SHIRLEY and **DAVID B. GRANT**, 63rd, wanted to know when the reunion would be this year--It's in September--this may be too early for the "Snow Birds". **DAVID** check out the information in the back of this letter.

ROBERT R. RICHARDSON, 63rd, **BOB** and **SHIRLEY** have moved form Vato, North Carolina. Their new address is 3018 Weatherby Court, Wilmington, North Carolina 28405-7483.

JERRY HURLBUT, son of **RAY HURLBUT** 63rd, reported to us of his fathers passing the 19th of November, 1995. Also, **MARY LOUISE**, **RAY'S** wife, passed away in 1993--Thanks **JERRY** for letting us know and God Bless.

RICHARD PATTON, 64th, sent in dues for '96--**DICK** was in the 64th Jan. '42' to Dec. '43--An Early Bird.

LYLE E. GOLDMER, 64th, is trying to get three of his old crew to join. That would make six--three in and three out. All six plan to be at the Kissimmee reunion. They have been getting together for 20 years. Good work **LYLE**--See you there.

ABE HELLMAN, 403rd, has two addresses. The newsletter is sent 3rd class and they won't forward it. Maybe we can come up with something. I'm all the help we have and I'm Short on Smart.

JAMES B. WARREN, 65th, and **SOPHIE** asked about new rosters and our book--The rosters will be in the mail by the 15th of January, 1996. I'm told the book will be out for sure this year. This has been going on for our 10 years, so maybe the book will be this year. I sure hope so--it will be good maybe I'll be around to read it--Jim is my kind--A B17 Boy.

GAYLORD L. VANETTEN, 63rd, needs any information you might have on **GEORGE C. WELCH**, 63rd. Our last address is 882 Boston Post Rd. Sudbury, MA 01776. Thanks for your nice remarks.

LEONARD O. BOWEN, 63rd, lives in Australia--17 Somerton Rd. Karrinyup, Western Australia 6018--is a little out of snuff. It seems our very own Treasury posted **LEONARD** past due on dues. He even went so far as to post him on the Drop List. This sets a bad reflection on this Famous Group. I feel sure we should fire him. The mistake has been corrected, but not the hurt. Western Australia is where Crocodile Dundee and those other gentleman come from--Our treasury really blew it this time.

LARRY D. ALMAND, the son of **WILLIAM J. "RED" ALMAND** 64th, sent in dues for '96 and '97. **LARRY'S** mother and father have both passed away and he wants to be a part of our Group. We are very pleased to have you. It's nice you want to share with us the love of our comrades--God Bless.

PAUL LEDGER sent in three new prospects, and we have sent them applications. He also sent the names of the ones that no longer make Roll Call --

ALLAN BERCAW	64th	10-'80
ALBERT FAUL	63rd	8-'82
NICK HADIARIS	65th	8-'82
JAMES FESCINA	65th	7-'88
CECIL BOSWORTH	64th	11-24-'89
NORMAN FRIEDBERG	64th	11-'95

Thanks for the report and our blessings to the families of the departed.

PAULINE and **GARNETT PEELING**, 65th, sent Christmas greetings to all and a thank you to the officers and directors for the Great Job. Hang Tuff **GARNETT**.

SUE BROWN is writing for her mother **PHYLLIS ELAINE EMERSON**. As a young nurse in Bangor, Maine, she met and married a handsome Fly-Boy (Think Back Lads--We all were) whose name was **ROY LEE "CURLY" ERWIN**--Along came Pearl Harbor and Curly shipped out. On September 2, 1944, His plane went down off New Guinea. After this, she served as an Army nurse in the European Theater. Her first husband was S/Sgt. **ROY LEE ERWIN**, 64th Squadron, MIA 2nd September, 1994, ASN 17015346--Tail Gunner. Any information will be most helpful--Sent it to Sue H. Brown--P.O. BOX 314 Washburn, ME 04786-0314.

LARRY and **LOIS MAIN**, 65th Pilot, got a call from Virginia Richmond that **SAM** had passed away. **SAM** was a Bombardier in the 65th. He was able to make the San Antonio Reunion and had a blast. He had hoped to make Kissimmee this fall--We will miss him. He had his last flight on the 28th of November, 1995--God Bless.

CARL and **GINNY HUSTAD**, 63rd Pilot, heard **BOB BUTLER** and I had the G.I.'s in Spain. **CARL** was surprised. He thought 18 months in New Guinea you could eat anything. Most of us went to the 43rd--Well, the 43rd came to him. A real B-18 Pilot in Banger--**DORIS BUTLER** says **BOB** and I checked out every W.C. in Spain.

BOB and **DORIS BUTLER** report the passing of **DENNIS J. LOMARDI**, 403rd on the 6th of November, 1995. **DENNIS** will be remembered by many, but I will remember him for all the times he busted **DALE BARR**, about like **GEORGE WHITE** does me. Today I'm Private **WILSON**--We lost a heavy when we lost **DENNIS**.

Another note from **DONNA BAKER ALEXANDER--DON BAKER'S** daughter. So many "Thank You" for all the kind words about her dad. We all meant every word of it. God Bless.

MAX M. AXELSON, 403rd Pilot, is still bragging on **MAX OSBORN** Cheyenne reunion. It was a good show, but I'm trying to sell the '96 models-Kissimmee-Bet you owe him five on the Golf Game. Back to business--**MAX** has dotted all the I's and crossed all the T's, so maybe our memorial at Lackland AFB is not far away--Good Job.

DICK WOOD, 63rd, had a stroke in November. The good news is that he is getting along pretty good. Have a speedy recovery **DICK**.

BOB and **IRENE WATSON**, 65th, is our New Vice President. They report a big Christmas with their family--will be at 33640 Westchester Rd., Tri-Palm Estates, Thousand Palms, Calif. 92276, till the 1st of April. If any of the bunch get in Vice write **BOB**--He is in charge of that.

JIM and **MICKEY MURPHY**, 63rd, is our NEW PRESIDENT. He has talked to **JAY ZEAMER**, **JAY** and **BARBARA**. They plan to be at our next reunion in Kissimmee. It's always nice to see them--**MRS. GENERAL ROGER RAMEY** may also show up. **FRED BLAIR** and **JIM** are working on her--**BILL EATON** and I have promised her a copy of our book. If all goes well, we will present it to her at the reunion.

Doctor **MILTON GUSACK**, 65th Group Flt/Surg, is busy making pecan pies out of Texas pecans. He could make a fortune out of his recipe. Judging from his penmanship, he must be the greatest doctor in the whole world--We all sure think you are.

GENE ERIC SALECKER, 2526 N. Davission St., River Grove, IL 60171, is working on a book showing the B-17's part in the War in the Pacific. If any of the early players on the B-17's want to help this fellow out I'm sure he would like that. He has several books on the Civil War. Santa Ana Army Air Base-Costa Mesa, Calif. is having their 21st Reunion April 20, 1996--if interested. They hope you can make it.

Confederate Air Force sent a list of their Air Shows for 1996. This is the best of the Best Shows. I'm a life member, but don't tell **GEORGE WHITE** that I'm a Col.--He will get busted--

Air Show Schedule

June 8-9	Waco, Texas
August 17-18	San Marcus, Texas
August 24-25	Fredrick, Maryland
September 21-22	Houston, Texas
September 28-29	Midland, Texas---The Big Air Show

ROGER and **AUDERY KETTLESON**, 64th Pilot, advised us of **GLENN E REAM**, 64th Pilot, passing. **GLENN** and **DELLA MAY** were with us at the Cheyenne Reunion. **GLENN** passed away November 14, 1995. **ROGER** and **AUDREY** sent flowers for the 43rd. After completing his missions, Glen was Gen. Whiteheads' pilot--in active duty end of WWII--recalled Korean War retired 1968. **DELLA MAE'S** address 78 Cotton Wood Lane, Box 504-16, Hurricane, Utah 84737.

EDWARD L. GAMMILL, 63rd, reports **H. LEROY SPILLYARDS**, 65th, passed away August 16th, 1995. **EDWARD** and **LEROY** were from the same home town and the same school. This was a big loss for **EDWARD** and the rest of us. God Bless.

ALBERT SYLVIA JR., 403rd, sends word of the passing of **KEITH SKELTON**, 403rd pilot. **KEITH** signed on May '44 at Nadzeb as co-pilot for **FRED'S** crew. In '93 and '94 he got the crew to a reunion in Rio Vista, Calif. He was also a lawyer and statesman in Oregon.

PATRICK and **CHARLIE TUTTLE** are pretty well settled in their new job. Our thanks to them for helping us get through the first few months of **BREEZY** retirement. Also, a special thanks to **LOYD "BREEZY" BOREN** for his help. We call him all the time and he gets us back on track. Be sure and send the 43rd mail to me it saves **BREEZY** and **PATRICK** the job of mailing it. I call on them enough as it is.

JAMES and **NANCY MARTIN JR.**, 63rd, want **LARRY** to finish the book. **JIM** says he has gone from 65 years of age to 77 waiting on "Our Book". A lot of the Troops didn't make it. I'm with you **JIM**--1996 or forget it.

COL. JAMES T. PETTUS "SIR." **JOE B. KINSEL**--Kinsel Ford is the Ford dealer in Beaumont, Texas. He was a navigator in the 63rd later Hdqtrs--flew a mission or three with you and **HARRY HAWTHORN**. "SIR." he is listed in the roster and gets the newsletter. He recalls your visit in the early 50's and tells its time for another visit. Mission Complete--**PFC WILSON**.

STANLEY "JACK" DUCHARME, 63rd, his wife advised me he passed away June 15, 1995. **JACK** liked the newsletter. He will be missed by all.

ABE "SHORTY" HELLMAN sent in a report of his crew meeting in October. Crew member 42 in the 403rd met in Tennessee. Five members of their crew were present. They all had a Big Time, but **LOYD A. MORGAN**, their Flt/Engr, did not make roll call. He passed away September 30th, 1995. This was a sad note to end the get together.

ROBERT L. "SHEP" SHEPPARD, Hdqtrs., joined the 43rd Jan '45. He worked with M/Sgt. **JAMES DAVIS** and Capt. **SPENCER C. WOOLLEY**. **SHEP** is sorry to report that **JIM DAVIS** passed away in February 1995 in Keene, New Hampshire.

LELAND R. LOUGHREY, 403rd Navigator, reports **FRED VISSELS** is deceased. He was the Bombardier on Zastnow's Crew. **LELAND** sent a copy of a letter to his dad written June 10, 1944. The part that got me was when he asked his dad if the Cherry's are ready for picking and he sure would like a cherry pie. Home cooking--How we missed it. He also made up a plug for the 403rd. His letterhead goes like this--403rd Heavy First Squadron to move to New Guinea and the oldest Heavy Squadron in the S.W. Pacific.

GARNETT L. PEELING, 65th, has his painting of the four Squadrons hanging on the living room wall with a light under it--lots of good words from company. Col. **PETTUS** signed it so it is real special. **JIM** has a few more so let him know if you want one. Postage and all will be about \$30.00. **GARNETT** is on sick call. His legs don't work so good--Hang in there we need you.

PAUL F PUCHALSKY, 63rd, wants to know if any one has an extra Seahawk's head with a bolt of lighting in it's beek patch. He sure would like to have it.

PATRICK and **CHARLEY TUTTLE** sent best wishes to all for good health and happiness in 1996. They are standing by to help if we get in a tight spot. Thanks very much.

HARVEY and **CLARA MOODY**, 64th Crew Chief, say, the Good Lord willing, will see us in Kissimmee in September. A good Texas Boy should get that done.

GEORGE A. PUTMAN, 403rd Pilot, has a great helper. Mary Joe sent his dues in. Thanks.

ROBERT "BOB" WHITEHEAD, 63rd, wants to hear from you original 63rd fellows--The Banger Bunch--**BOB**, **CARL HUSTAD** is one of them. A real B-18 Pilot--Not many of them left.

HAROLD H. KAHLER, Bombardier, was in the 63rd, 64th, and 65th April '43 to April '44. He'll be at the Kissimmee Reunion. Better come early **HAROLD**, you gotta make three Squadron meetings.

LYLE P HEINEKE, 64th Waist Gunner, sent his dues to a famous lawyer in Cheyenne. This lawyer sent in Five and only charged us Ten. For legal fees and lawyers that was a very cheap fee.

RALPH and **GENE DELOACH**, 63rd Pilot, report that they are both well and are spending more and more time in England. A notice of a presentation of "Black Jack's Last Mission" was made by **RALPH** at St. Edwards School, Woodstock Rd., Oxford, England. The program was well received and the people of Oxford now know a little about the 63rd. The 43rd and the 5th AF Good Show Yank--God Bless.

BOB ROTH, 403rd, has been giving the Dept. of Vet Affairs, State of California. A bad time on their Auto Vet Plates. It seems they left off "U.S. Army Air Corps", well in California it is now on the plates. Thanks to **BOB**--Good work from a good boy.

URBAN C. NYE, 64th Gunner, has an address change. Likes the newsletter very much regardless of what Ball Turrell Operator, **GEORGE WHITE**, says. Thanks I needed that.

HOWARD S. BOOTH, 63rd Pilot, sent in dues and **BUD** sent a "HI" to everyone.

RAY T. MELHUS, 403rd, says- Be sure and wish everyone the Best of '96. Thanks **RAY**.

GEORGE MORGAN, 403rd, is still talking about the Reunion at Anaheim (Queen Mary.) Keep us in mind and try another--We Miss You.

HELEN LOONEY, **WALT'S** widow, sent in dues and is still looking for the rest of the Walt's Crew. There was a **GEORGE WHITE**, and she wants to hear from him. Maybe he is the one on their crew. **HELEN**, I found **GEORGE WHITE** and my life has never been the same. Maybe he is not the one you are looking for.

FRANK REMANIAK, 63rd, wants to know --If you get a card showing your a member in good standings? There has been some talk of it over the years, but nothing has been done. If we ever get a good secretary, maybe we could do this. The one we have now is for the birds.

ROBERT W. McVEIGH, 403rd Supply, missed Cheyenne, but is getting ready for Kissimmee. He wants to see everyone and pay his '97 dues there. **BOB** is one of my good boys.

LLOYD "BREEZY" BOREN, 65th, says the last newsletter was a good one. Thank you , you're still a big help in keeping things going.

JANE MARTIN, wife of Capt. **JAMES MARTIN**, 403rd, wants more information about the B-24 crash in April 1944 at Nadzeb. She thinks **JAMES** and **PAUL COBER** picked up **JOHN TAYLOR** after the crash. Did **JOHN BERTRAN** send **JOHN EDMISTEN** a tape? If so, was there more information?

FREDERICK MOTT, 63rd Flt/Sur, Doctor, you sent me a note and I can't find it. Somewhere in the 125 letters I have misplaced it. Better still tell our new President and maybe I'll get fired.

BLANCHE C. WRIGHT, wife of Col. **WALLACE WRIGHT**, Hdqtrs. Pilot, reports the passing of her husband on October 25, 1995 in Santa Claus, Indiana.

ART CURREN, Hdqtrs. Pilot, signed on for life and is getting ready for Kissimmee--
See you there.

DONALD L. FENNER, 403rd, is paid up on '96 dues and is ready for Kissimmee.
I'm one that wants to get fired.

JOHN H. PICKERING, 64th Pilot, sent pictures and programs of **JOSE HOLGUIN**, 65th, funeral service. **JOSE** worked for peace with all. The Consulate General of Japan and Mexico gave a message. **JOSE** was a good boy--God Bless.

LEO E. PAINTER, 65th Radar, is on sick call--No reunions but like the newsletter.
Hang Tough **LEO**.

DICK WOOD, 63rd Rad/Nav, has been helping father Shae by doing the Memorial Services at the Reunions. One of his things is his "43 Inspirations." A lot of us thing you might like a copy of them. **DICK** said to have a go at it--So here there are----

1. Remember old friends who cannot be here.
2. Hug a child or a grandchild.
3. Practice patience.
4. Smile often.
5. Live God's message.
6. Make new friends.
7. Rediscover old friends.
8. Tell those you love that you do.
9. Forget troubles.
10. Forgive an enemy.
11. Keep a promise
12. See beauty everywhere.
13. Be wise.
14. Try to understand.
15. Take time for people.
16. Make time for yourself.
17. Spread joy.
18. Reach out.
19. Let someone in.
20. Celebrate life.
21. Believe in yourself.
22. Trust others.
23. Listen to the rain.
24. Count your blessings.
25. Hope.
26. Grow.
27. Observe miracles.
28. Make them happen.
29. Discard worry.
30. Trust enough to take a gift.
31. Have faith.
32. Comfort a friend.
33. Be kind to a stranger.
34. Learn something new each day.
35. Admit your mistakes.
36. Learn from your mistakes.
37. Explore the unknown.
38. Enjoy life.
39. Try something new.
41. Give.
42. Give in.
43. Cry when you need to.

FRANK HOBMONN, 65th Flt/Engr, has turned up a book written by Vera G. Bradley A.A.M.W.S. "43""45" = An Army Nurse. Frank says it is 500 pages of great information. The 19th BG and 43rd BG people stationed at Mareeba will really enjoy this book. The name of the book is "I Didn't Know That". The price of the book and postage, 2 to 3 week delivery, is 67.50--credit cards or cash. The book tells what was going on in those early days, who was where and what they were doing. I guess we were not alone.

BILL and **VIRGINIA HOOVER**, 63rd Navigator, had quite a trip home from Cheyenne. First, I left "Radar" and **VIRGINIA** off the list of those that made the reunion. Next, he had a pinched nerve in his back and was in the sick bay for three weeks in Nebraska--Sounds like quite a trip home. Hope you are better and will excuse my goff. **BILL** and I worked together two years at Ardmore AFB.

BETTY C. SPILLYARDS reports the passing of her husband **HOWARD LEROY "POP" SPILLYARD**, 65th Crew Chief. He died August 16, 1995. **BETTY**, **HAL WINFREY** and I were there at the same time and I'm sure I knew **POP**--Our prayer at the memorial service is a blessing on all our comrades that have passed away since our last Reunion. May they Rest in Peace, your loss is in part ours--God Bless.

RUSSEL I. BRADLEY, 63rd Mickey Operator on **NORM SEAMANS** Crew, lives at 133 Donley Drive Monroeville, PA 15146-1509. Anyone in Pennsylvania or Ohio drop him a note and tell we would like for him to join up.

W. RAY SNYDER, 403rd gunner, is getting ready for the Kissimmee Reunion--His first. **RAY**, it will be fun--See you there.

RODGER and **NORMA LITTLE**, 63rd pilot, live just a short distance from this year reunion site and if you need any help just let them know. Good folks those Littles'.

CHARLES H. STENGLEIN, 65th, bought a cap from our PX--Thanks **CHARLES**, business has been slow. Even the Christmas rush didn't happen.

HAROLD T. NEWTON, 63rd Pilot, was unable to make Cheyenne, but hopes to make Kissimmee. **HAROLD** wants to know--Is living in Dry West Texas giving a person Dry Wit also? And, if it rains do you lose it? Don't know **HAROLD**, it hasn't rained yet. Be a good boy.

BELFORD M. FRISBY, 403rd, has a friend close by who was a P.O.W. in Japan for 42 months. A sad story. **BELFORD** also sent me his business card. He's totally unqualified--No job--No money--No prospects--No aptitude etc.. Cheer up I got this job.

KENNETH "KEN" and **CHICH DAWSON**, 403rd Pilot, have been on sick call so they missed Cheyenne. Enjoy the newsletter. Sweating out the next reunion. They are Texans and should get off sick call and make Roll Call at Kissimmee. Hope to see you there.

JOHN J. ONDRIS, Hdqtrs. 1st Sgt., wife reports **JOHN** passed away April 3, 1995. **ELVIE** says **JOHN** was a newsletter fan and recalled many fond memories--God Bless Him.

ELWYN H. HANSEN, 403rd, made the Cheyenne Reunion. **PHYLLIS** and **ELWYN** live about 220 miles from Cheyenne, but decided to come in the back way. About 5500 miles later they made it. By then, **PHYLLIS** was on sick call with a bad cold so they headed for home. If **MAX OSBORN** told you how to get there he has lost his touch as a Navigator. We will have to give him a new MOS--Do they have one for golf?

CLAUDIE D. HAWKINS, 403rd Pilot, missed Cheyenne. **MARILYN**, his wife, was on sick call. He has high hopes of making roll call in Kissimmee. In the meantime, he'll stay in touch by way of the newsletter. Maybe we will get someone that can spell.

SAM and **HELEN JEAN COMMONS**, 65th Flt/Engr, is a new director and is ready to go to work. In addition to his record in the 43rd, after leaving the service, he got an Engineering Degree. He worked for the Honey Well Corp. for 15 years then opened his own business. Sixty-five helpers later he is now actively retired. Good show **SAM**.

ROBERT L. SHEPPARD, Hdqtrs Cit/Clerk, was sorry to miss the Cheyenne Thing. Hears **MAX** and **FRAN** did a great job. Well, they sure did.

MAX H. MAYER, 65th Bombardier, says he had a big time in Cheyenne. He wishes all the troops good health in '96.

REGINALD and **LUCILLE TATRO**, 65th Rad/Oper, have been requested to make sick call fairly often so they missed Cheyenne. **REGINALD** was very pleased **BOB WATSON** stopped by them. **J.T. BRITTON** showed up. They reflew several missions out of Mareeba and New Guinea. Good company wishes I could have been there. Yes, the good Lord Bless us to be able to talk about 53 years later. Take care.

ROBERT W. WHITE, 65th Tail Gunner, sent in dues for someone on my hit list. Thanks **BOB**. He has another question. He wants his Pilot **VERN H. GASTON** to see if he remembers what happened the morning of February 21, 1944 and how the aircraft radio ended up in this tent that night. Oh well, he got us back from several missions. This report is from **GASTON'S** Old Tail Gunner.

RICHARD RUSSELL JR., 65th Ball Turret Operator, found us. He wants a reup. His address is 10928 Woodland Falls Drive, Great Falls, Virginia 22061-1536. His phone number is 703-450-9677. Glad to have you **DICK**.

BARBARA SHAW-FELTES advises us that her father, **WALTER S. HAYS**, 64th Tail Gunner, passed away in March of 1994. **WALT** lacked on week of making 84. **BARBARA** is going to send his pictures of WWII to us. Thanks, we would like to see them.

ROGER J. SULLIVAN, 403rd Pilot, made my hit list last year. Well, he just sent in Life Membership to get me off his back. But, he wants my Used Car Guarantee. You got it **ROGER**--be sure you read the fine print.

FRANK and **GENNY SCHIRIPA**, 64th, sends Best Wishes for a Healthy and Happy New Year to all--same to you all. **MANUEL** and **FAY ALEXOPOULOS**, 63rd A/C Maint. also send the wishes.

LORAIN GRIFFIN, 403rd, **JOELS** wife, sent in dues and a nice donation. New address but same house--911 brought about new addresses--Out by the Rodeo Grounds won't get it any more. **LORAIN "SHINE"** is a great lady--3352 Gary Brewer Road, Snyder, Texas 79549.

JOSEPH F HEUSTON, 65th Engr/Gun, sent a nice letter recalling the early days of WWII--The Draft that was for one year and lasted four or five - Banger, Australia, Mareeba, Port Morsby, etc.. The 65th Supply Tent, Sgt. **HOWARD K. BEMUS**, **JOHN MCCARTHY**, **PAPPY WEIN**, **JACK YOUNG** and etc. **JOSS BARNES** and a rough trip back to Mareeba - lots of other people we all liked very much. A personal note < does anyone know what happened to **HOWARD BEMUS**? A really great fellow.

DONALD J. MARSAGLIA 65th Bombardier, missed Cheyenne, but he will be at Kissimmee. Come September **DON** was on **DAYTON BLANCHARD** Crew.

FRANK TRIBENDIS, 64th Line Chief, reports **BRUNO LIPUT**, 64 Crew Chief, passed away in '95. Thanks **FRANK**--We will miss you **BRUNO**.

WALTER A. MARUSAK, 64th Crew Chief, sends regards and thanks to the officers and directors for doing a super job.

JOHN H. PFEIFFER, 64th Pilot, bought a new car to make the Cheyenne Reunion in, but the day before he was to leave he went on sick call. It turned out to be Big trouble and **JOHN** and **JEANNE** had to call it off. They are getting rested up for Kissammee. Take Care.

DALE W. ALLTON reaped on his dues. It seems his wife like to read the newsletter. Pretty good reason to keep your dues up--Best Regards.

The Yankee Air Museum Library has a picture of a B24J SN 44-40429 with a painting on it of the University of Michigan Stadium, along with a WAC Cheerleader. This aircraft was assigned to either the 63rd or 403rd. They need to know which squadron and who did or picked out the Nose Art. Also, they want to get the newsletter. The pictures are sold to get money for the "Liberator" Award, given to a second year USAF ROTC Cadet. Good program, write to **HAROLD W. SHERMAN**, Library Chairman, Yankee Air Museum Library, P.O. Box 590, Belleville, MI 48112-0590. His phone number is 313-483-4030. Be nice to him. Maybe we can transfer **GEORGE WHITE** to them.

DONALD J. MARSAGLIA, 65th Bombardier, is sorry he missed **MAX OSBORN'S** Cheyenne Reunion. But, he has big plans for Kissimmee in September. Don was the Bomb Aimer on Dayton Blanchards Crew.

HELP is on the way!!! **RUDOLPH JAMES CHERKAUER**, 65th Pilot, has volunteered to help me on the newsletter. Startin with the April Edition. **JIM** is a good Yankee and I sure need the help. Sent the mail to me and will divide it up.

GOOFED AGAIN--Help me out-- **COL. PETTUS**, my very good friend and R.C.A.F. Partner and the Real C.O. Well, the New Roster on the second page lists Officers and Directors. Col. **PETTUS** came out begin **PELLUS**. Take your pen and put a top on those L's and make them T's. It will save me correcting 1000 mistakes. Thanks very much.

ALFRED HAGEN, 63rd, advised that **JIM DIEFFENDERFER**, 63rd, on November 5, 1995 of his itinerary starting November 17th for quite a trip to Port Moresby--Upper BuBu Valley, Major **BENN'S** crash site, (B25 The Red Headed Gal). 2-B17's one near Black Cat Gap and the other is in the swampy North Coast, Lae, Cape Vogel, (to see Black Jack) Guadalcanal, Tulagi, Cairns and Mareeba. **FRED** is going to take pictures along the way, maybe **JIM DIEFFENDERFER** can get him to show them at Kissammee.

The U.S. Postal Service has issued us a Non Profit Rate, this will cut our postage in about half. Every little bit will help.

MARY LOIS joins me in wishing each of you Good Health in 1996.

God Bless,
MARY LOIS & BILL