



June Edition 1992

Lake Barkley, Cadiz, KY

Reno In 1993

SUBJECT: 1993 Reunion

The purpose of this letter is to give you a little advanced notice of our 1993 reunion.

A contract has just been signed with the Sands Regency Hotel in Reno, Nevada for our 1993 783rd B.S. reunion. The dates are 22-25 August. Tentative plans include registration on Sunday, August 22, together with a buffet that evening. On Monday, a tour will include a trip to Lake Tahoe with lunch at the Ponderosa Ranch. On Tuesday, we will have the business meeting and a trip to Carson City and Virginia City. That evening will be a sit down dinner. We are working on golf for Wednesday but don't have that final as yet. The Armed Forces Reunions, Inc., (AFR) will handle all the arrangements.

We were able to get the cheaper rates, \$44 per night by having the reunion in August. That is also the month for celebrating the 50th Anniversary of the Squadron.

The response to the ballot as to a reunion location was very small. Those that did respond wanted Reno.

The various costs and specific arrangements will be provided us for our first Latrine-O-Gram in 1993. I will keep you informed of developments as the occur.

Sincerely,  
Andy Anderson  
President, 783rd BSA

**VOTES-** Reno 28, New Orleans 2, Newport News 8, Niagara Falls, N.Y. (Buffalo) 1, Atlantic City 1, Savannah, Ga. 1, Tampa, FL 1, Las Vegas 2, St. Louis 4, Colorado Springs 1, anyplace east 2, Seattle 1, New England area 1, Memphis, TN. 1, Boston 1, Cape Cod 1, Orlando 1, Cleveland 1, Indianapolis 1.

There were several notes about having it in the east and midwest. There was a note from Rush and Jack Myers about having it at Lake Barkley Lodge, Cadiz, KY. I'm sure that they have been here for a vacation.

On that subject, our crew met last year here at my home on Lake Barkley.



Joe Bastin, George Josten, Jim Lawton, Doyle Mayo, Ed Pereira and Bill Bolin. Picture taken on Joe Bastin's boat dock. The wives were there along with Mayme Hays, widow of J.T. and Rena Lucy, widow of Dan.

This year the crew plans to meet at Cape Cod. Ed and Jean Pereira are making arrangements.

**Notes from people:**

Charles C. Harding wrote that the V5000 was not the property of the 464th but the 465th and was present when it came and the picture was taken. He said he hates to see so many old timers leaving us - we all do. Thanks Charles.

I received a note from Charles and Evelyn Ellis on the bottom of their ballot. I did not know Charles and Evelyn before I met them at the reunions but feel as if I have known them for years. They are delightful people.



The picture was sent to me along with a note from Rev. Wills (Bob). He wanted to let me know the type of fish he catches in Michigan. At least he could have let his wife get in the picture. That's barely a keeper down here, Bob. He also sent a picture to Mike Magazzino.

Mike Magazzino wrote that he and his family are renting a houseboat on Lake Cumberland, which is near us here in Kentucky and that he might visit us. I'm looking forward to seeing them. Our lake runs from twenty miles north of us down to Nashville, Tenn., Cumberland river. It joins Kentucky Lake with a mile long canal which I can take to the Tom Bigby Waterway to Mobile, AL. and the Gulf of Mexico. I can lock through either Kentucky or Barkley Dams to the Ohio River, turn right and go to Indiana, Ohio, West Virginia, Pittsburg, or turn left on the Ohio River and into the Mississippi at Cairo, IL. and north to St. Louis, Chicago, etc., or south to New Orleans.

**NOTICE from President Andy Anderson:**

Joe: Here is an item for the Latrine-O-Gram.

In the past, individuals have kept appropriate files as was deemed necessary. Effective immediately, Floyd Gregory, 2014 S. Anderson, Urbana, IL 61801, has agreed to serve as a repository of records, in order to fulfill the objectives of the 783rd Constitution. Request all persons send papers, documents, rosters, letters, etc., of historical nature to Floyd.

4/16/92

Dear Joe:

Some time in the recent past, I cannot remember just when nor in what publication, I read an article that included a statement that an individual, whose name I cannot remember, "was on Petranek's crew". The person making the statement continued with "I can't find any reference to a 'Petranek'". I'd like to set the record straight.

Capt. Robert G. Petranek's crew, on which I was engineer, was a replacement crew in the 783rd B.S., 465th B.G. arriving at Pantanella AFB (Spinnazolla, Italy), February 6, 1944 (I think), but in any case in time to fly the first combat mission with the group.

My crew consisted of the following members:

Capt. Robert G. Petranek - AC  
Lt. George Meece - CP  
Lt. Gordon Bilharz - NAV  
FO Sam Marie (Last several missions) - Bomb.  
T/Sgt. Ralph W. McElyea - Eng.  
T/Sgt. Ed Anderson(?) - Radio  
S/Sgt. Ward Daniels - Top turret gunner  
S/Sgt. Otho Browning - Nose gunner  
S/Sgt. Bob Spellbrink - T.G.  
S/Sgt. Dave Cohen - Belly gunner

We completed 50 missions about Sept. 15-18, 1944, except that due to having missed a mission I had only 49 missions.

On Sept. 22, 1944 I went on my 50th mission as a replacement tail gunner on 1st Lt. Williams crew, replacing Sgt. Robert Ferrell. We were shot down on that mission over Munich. Me, the co-pilot, and radio operator got together and travelled 3 days and nights when we were captured, riding on the back of a flat bed, wood burning truck. After about 3 hours and walking 3 or 4 miles in the Brenner Pass, I escaped and continued south toward Innsbruck, Austria. On the 9th day I was recaptured and spent the next 9 months in various prison camps, ending at Stalag IV D near Barth, Germany.

The surviving members of my crew are Sam Marie, Bob Spellbrink and myself. I was located by Jim McClosky in 1985 and have attended reunions at Dayton, Las Vegas and San Antonio.

I have skipped over numerous details of my experiences of capture and confinement because I don't write very well and my hand is tired!

Hope you can read this mess.

Best Regards,  
Mac McElyea

Dear Joe,

Attached is my ballot for . Love the big country.

The fellowship at all our reunions has been excellent. We were stuck pretty hard at Dayton and the dinner at San Antonio was a disaster-other than these two gripes-and I haven't griped, these were just observations that might help.

I will go anywhere the 783rd reunion is held. I have no real "druthers".

Quid Fit  
Ben

P.S. You did well with Latrine-O-Gram.

Don Kay, my "ole" golf partner sent a note along with his ballot and said that he has had a physical and has a heart blockage but no surgery as of now. He is doing volunteer work at the local museum "Spirit of the West" as a "Snake Oil Salesman". He grew his mustache back.

I think we look as if we need to be in museums and I don't think they could have found a better guy to be a "snake oil salesman". HA.

He also mentioned the death of Colonel Kenneth Lindow. Al Honey got to ride in the B-24 on its San Francisco visit. Al is going into a V.A. hospital for a check-up.

#### **EAGLES NEST**

George Josten sent me the death notice of Harry Greene. He has been in declining health for the past few years. Gertrude, we will all miss him and seeing him at the reunions.

Mrs. Mary Everett sent the log back with a note saying Luther was deceased as of 9/12/91.

Charlie Payne lost his beloved Evelyn 12/23/91. Married 46 years. He was to come to Lake Barkley with Charlie Ellis for a fishing trip, some golf and they were going to visit me.

The grief will get better with time but we never forget. This is going to happen more and more, both ways, to the "ole" 783rd, so live each day, be happy and kind to one another.

Andy wrote that Ed Massey had died and that he had written Elsie, Ed's wife. He was on the same crew with Andy.

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The Western Reserve Aviation Hall of Fame enshrinement. Inductee Caro Bayley Bosco, second from right, with her daughter, Marci Humphery, left; Hall of Fame president Sid Bradd, and honorary chairman Stanley Pace, retired General Dynamics chairman and World War II pilot.

In the Colling Foundation April-May news release on the B-24 All American:

Pilots and crew members that helped from the 465th B.G.

Bert Andrus D.F.C., George Goodwin D.F.C., Jim Althoff D.F.C., and Ben Donahue D.F.C.

Tentative schedule:

- |           |                 |       |                                |
|-----------|-----------------|-------|--------------------------------|
| 30-July 2 | Winona/Lacross  | Aug.  |                                |
| 2-4       | St. Paul        | 8-9   | Ft. Wayne                      |
| 4-8       | Minneapolis     | Sept. |                                |
| 10-12     | Muskegon        | 26-27 | N.E.E. Airshow                 |
| 24-26     | Westover A.F.B. | Oct.  |                                |
|           |                 | 1     | 485 B.G. Reunion (Hanscom AFB) |

Send any news for the last of September.

Quid Fit  
*Joe*