



## 783RD LATRINE-O-GRAM

March Edition 1993

Lake Barkley, Cadiz, KY

Another winter is about gone and we will head back to Kentucky and Lake Barkley. Our place here in the Keys is at Marathon (Paradise Island), and is about 100 miles below Miami and 50 miles north of Key West. We are on the beach overlooking the Atlantic ocean and can walk three blocks southwest out of the back door and be at the Gulf of Mexico. Needless to say I love the water, fishing, boating, golf, as well as flying. There is a small airport here with U.S.A., American Airlines as well as our own plane. Kentucky Parks system has a beautiful airport at Lake Barkley State Park, a stones throw away from my lake house.

We hope to be back in Kentucky by April first since the crappie and bass start to bite. I also want to be there when Kentucky wins the N.C.A.A. basketball tournament? I have some mixed emotions since I grew up in Indiana and went to Indiana U. (after the 783rd), but have had my office and family in Kentucky for forty three years.

In the last issue of the Latrine-O-Gram I said that I would tell you about my almost signing a Statement of Charges for a B-24.

We flew a brand new plane via Newfoundland, Azores, and Tunis on our way to spend ten months in beautiful southern Italy. When we landed at Tunis one of our big tires blew out. They did not have a spare and we didn't have one since we didn't have a trunk. The tire had to be sent from the USA so would spend several weeks in North Africa. One man had to stay with the plane at all times so the local people, who wore white sheets, wouldn't take the plane, one piece at a time. These were not K.K.K. but black guys in white sheets. We didn't want to see our new B-24 up on blocks with the tires, guns, and engines removed or stripped.

We took turns guarding the plane day and night. Come to think about it, I don't remember the officers-and gentlemen take a turn. This reminds me about the joke when a lawyer died and on his stone was inscribed, "Here lies a lawyer and an honest man." A little fellow looked at it and said "why did they put two men in the same grave?" (Only kidding). After being on duty several times, 24 hours on, I had checked and rechecked everything on the plane, read Forever Amber, which in those days would be X rated, now it would be P.G. The sun was hot, largest beach property in the world with no water, and I was sitting under the wing leaning against the good wheel when I noticed a huge ant hill with big ants. They were as large as the end of your thumb. It reminded me of an old Tarzan movie when the natives buried a person with only his head above the sand, near an ant hill.

Since I was who took care of the "putt, putt" five horse power engine for the generator, I got the five gallon gas can from the flight deck and poured several quarts of gas down the ant hole. I carefully put the can far away and threw a match in the hole. I don't remember where I got the match since I never smoked and I don't remember any cigarette lighter on the planes dash. Anyway, it made a big Whoom! and lots of cooked ants. I saw something out of the corner of my eye and to my surprise and fright there was another hole, under the plane near the waste windows, which looked like a blow torch. The ant hills were connected and made a great wind tunnel with the fire. The dark smoke alerted the tower which dispatched a fire truck. Needless to say I was almost as frightened as on a bomb run over Munich or Vienna.

I think this is when I strained myself which later in life caused a hernea. Can you picture me trying to push a B-24 with a flat tire, brakes on, and in soft sand, but I almost did. By the time the fire truck and a jeep with a Major got there I had the fire out. The Major said that I almost had to sign a statement of charges for \$250,000. That wouldn't buy an engine for a plane now but back then a new Ford sold for a whopping \$600. Were those really the good old days.



From our president (Andy) R. S. Anderson. Andy and Rosella have put a lot of time and effort into this reunion and the 783rd. Enclosed are copies of the registration, etc. in case you lost or misplaced yours.

February 8, 1993

Dear Joe:

Everything seems to be shaping up good for Reno. I mailed the Registration form, the schedule and price of tours to Mike for his direct mailing effort. The Hotel registration cards haven't arrived but should very soon.

If you would, please put something to that effect in the next Latrine-O-Gram i.e., that everything is in the mail.

Is it possible that we could get on issue out August 1 so that we could cover any new items or announcements at that time. For example, all should be advised about August 1 that the Sands offers a shuttle from the airport every 30 minutes for \$2.65 a person. Parking at the hotel is free, and the nearest RV hook-up is only four blocks away.

We will also want to tell those playing golf that they are on their own for transportation to the course.

I think Norfolk has done a good job for us at \$3.00 a head. This can better be measured after the reunion.

If anything else comes up I'll give you a call.

Regards,

  
R.S. ANDERSON

Mike sent these pictures of his trip and people he visited.



On The Road Again

Tuscalloosa, Ga.

John Walker and I. We stopped to visit him & his wife Sarah Hill (now that's a southern gal). My Sarah and his Sarah hit it off pretty good. John keeps busy with his workshop and makes great "hi-balls". I had to ask him if the whiskey was Jim Beam, Jack Daniels or all "Johnny Walker"?



Al, me & his '69 LTD,  
Picayune, MS.

We stopped for a short visit with him & Geneva. Al is still having his health problems. When Al picked us up he said he would be in the '69 LTD-I told him this was 1993-car in excellent shape though.



M Guy Julien  
Domaine "Les Maurels"  
83 670 Barjols (France)

**My buddy George  
Budzeika & I.**

George is a squadron member, worked under Mort Cohn in Parachute Dept. George would attend a "reunion" but its got to go further East. This was taken in Atlantic City last Aug. 1992. Not much action with the camera. Got to get rid of that "gut" - I think its all "gas".

Barjols, January the 5th 1993

Dear Mr. Magazzine

I am a young frenchman very interested in the history and the old planes too. I make some researches about the fighters or bombers lost over the south eastern France in 1943-44. The most of them were americans.

In July, the 12th, 1944, a big raid was organized against the railroad in the southern France. The target for 49th and 55th combat wings of the 15th Air Force was a rail station in the city of Nimes.

The german fighters attacked the B 24 a long time before their arrival on the target area.

The 766th squadron (461st BG) lost four combat crews, pilots were the Lt. Rav. Fawcett, Bunn and Barnes.

The 465th lost one "Liberator". It was the B-24H 42 52478. "Section 8", piloted by Cpt. Robert Swarzy.

Pilot and gunner Montana Lupe were killed in action by 2 Me 109 after a frontal attack. The others crew members bailed out. They were hidden by french patriots and could escaped to Italy some days later. The bomber crashed near the little town of La Tour d'Aigue. (80 Kilometers in the North West of Marseille)

Three years ago this village organized a ceremony where Mrs. Swarzy Price (Cot Swarzy widow) was gusted.

I wrote a letter to her and she gave to me some photos and letters about this painful time. I have two letters written in September 1944 by the navigator and the bombardier of her husband, Lt. Thomas and Smith.

Could you says to me if these men or others former crew members of the "Section 8" are (or were) member of your association. (list and photo jointed)? I would need their help for my researches. For this tragic mission the second pilot was Lt. Nelson, and not Lt. Crabtree.

Thank you for your help.

Sincerely yours

*G. Julien*



August 27, 1992

Mr. Guy Julien  
"Les Maurels"  
83670 Barjols  
FRANCE

Dear Mr. Julien,

Enclosed with this letter are the materials that I promised to send to you. I do hope that this information will help you in your research on Aircraft and War Battles over France during World War II.

I believe that you will get the true story of what happened on that "Evil Day", July 12, 1944 when you read the letters from Lt. Thomas and Lt. Smith that I copied from letters that I received from them many years ago. You can see that they both tell it the same way. The letters also tell how the brave Resistance Fighters helped them so much.

The pictures I am also enclosing is the picture of Capt. Swanzy's crew members and a picture of his B-24 Bomber that was shot down that day. Please notice that I have put a little white "dot" by the ones that I identified by name.

Since I have lost track of the crew members after all of these years, I do not have any of their addresses. I called the veterans administration and they could not give me the addresses of the men because it would be an "Invasion of Privacy Act", however, there is a way that you can get them to forward a letter to the crew members by doing this:  
You can get an answer by doing this:

Write the same letter to each member, enclosed in a stamped (with your address) envelope with just the crew member's name on it and they will forward it to the crew member.

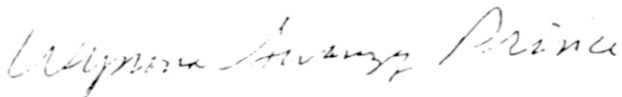
then if the crew member wants to answer your letter he will.

Put all of the addresses and stamped envelopes into one large envelope and mail to this address :  
VETERAN'S ADMINISTRATION, REGIONAL OFFICE  
1400 N. VALLEY MILLS DRIVE  
WACO, TEXAS 76799

I wish I could have stayed longer in LaTour D'Aigues and visited with more of the dear people there. I will always have a very deep respect and love for them.

Wishing you the best in your research, I am

Mrs. Wynona Swanzy Prince  
412 N. Jean Dr.  
Longview, Texas 75603  
USA



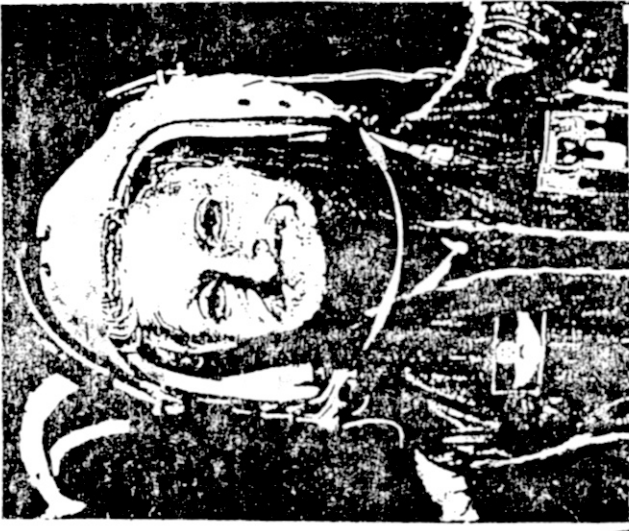
Pilot-Robert Swanzy, Co-pilot-Robert W. Crabtree,  
Navigator-Robert B. Thomas, Bombardier-Ralph J. Smith  
Engineer-Raul H. Hooge, Asst. Engineer-Charles A. Cripps  
Radio-Weber Vaughn, Tail Gunner-Walter Q. Wilson  
Nose Gunner-Thomas W. Walsh, Ball Gunner-Lupe Montana  
Extra Co-pilot-William A. Nelson. Riding for extra mission.  
Sent to me by Mike Magazine.



783rd BOMB SQUADRON  
465th BOMB GROUP  
RENO  
AUGUST 22-26, 1993

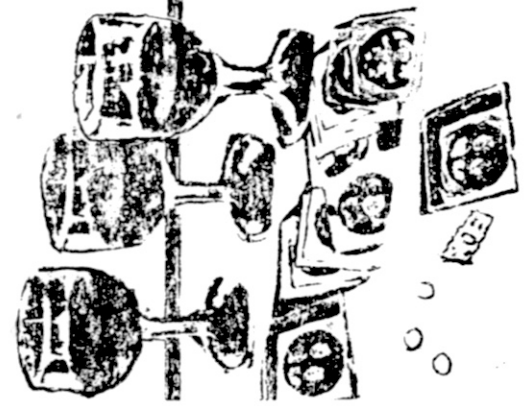
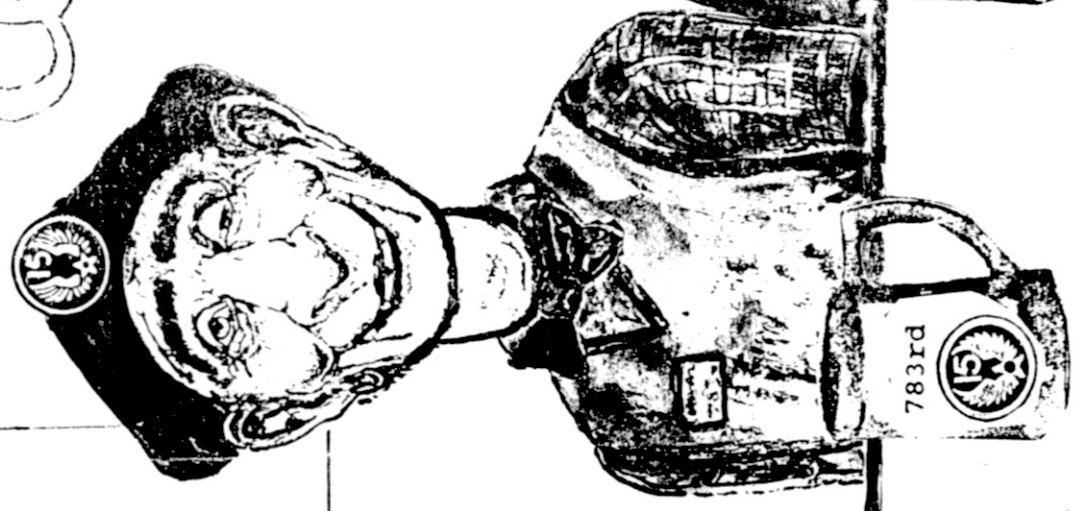
- Sunday 8/22      12:00 - Arrival and registration until 5:00. Hospitality room open.  
5:30 - Cash bar.  
6:30 - Group dinner deli buffet.
- Monday 8/23      7:00 - Registration for late arrivals until 8:00 a.m.  
8:00 - Board the bus at the hotel for a driving tour along the rim of Lake Tahoe. It is one of the largest, and most beautiful alpine lakes in the world. With 72 miles of shoreline, Lake Tahoe provides beautiful scenes rich in history and legend.  
\$28/Person  
incl. bus,  
guide, lunch,  
and admission.      12:00 - Lunch and free time at the Ponderosa Ranch, location for much of the Bonanza TV series. Tour the Cartwright Ranch House and explore an entire western town with a giant display of carriages, wagons, and western memorabilia. Wash down a juicy Hossburger with the Ranch's own Ponderosa Mountain Dew, a beer, or a soft drink at the famous Silver Dollar Saloon.  
2:00 - Reboard the bus to return to the hotel.  
Evening - Dinner on your own.
- Tuesday 8/24      9:00 - Business meeting, followed by lunch on your own.  
12:00 - Board the bus at the hotel for a driving tour of Carson City, including the Nevada State Museum and some of Carson City's historic homes and buildings. Then on to Virginia City, the gaudiest, headiest boom town of the Old West and where Mark Twain cut his literary teeth. Miraculously, the town looks much the same as it did in the 1860's, from the wobbly saloons built on stilts to the well-trodden boardwalks of the main street. Visit old mansions, quaint shops, churches and museums, and tour mines.  
\$17/Person  
incl. bus,  
guide, and  
admission.      3:30 - Reboard the bus to return to the hotel.  
6:00 - Cash bar.  
7:00 - Posting of colors, followed by banquet and dancing.
- Wednesday 8/25      Farewells and departures.  
10:00 - Golf outing at the Sierra Sage golf course for those who wish to extend their stay.  
\$38/Person  
incl. cart,  
green fee,  
and prizes.      6:30 - Group dinner, followed by golf prizes.





Sleep tight tonight.....  
Your Air Force is Awake

# Rowb Club



Glenn & Lois Cunningham  
1320 Preusser  
San Angelo, TX 76903



Listed below are all the registration, tour, and meal costs for the reunion. Please enter how many people will be participating in each event, and total the amount. At the bottom, add up the total amount due for all events, and send that amount payable to Armed Forces Reunions, Inc. to the address below no later than July 22, 1993.

Armed Forces Reunions, Inc.  
P.O. Box 11327  
Norfolk, VA 23517  
Attn: 783rd Bomb Sqdn/465th Bomb Group

CUTOFF DATE IS JULY 22, 1993.

	PRICE PER	x	NO. OF PEOPLE	=	AMOUNT
Mandatory registration fee.	\$5	x	_____	=	_____
Sunday dinner deli buffet. Cost incl. meal, tax, and tip.	\$16	x	_____	=	_____
Monday tour to Lake Tahoe. Cost incl. bus, guide, lunch, and ranch admission.	\$28	x	_____	=	_____
Tuesday tour of Carson City. Cost incl. bus, guide, and admission.	\$17	x	_____	=	_____
Tuesday night banquet. (Please choose one).					
Prime rib	\$22	x	_____	=	_____
Chicken Cordon Bleu	\$21	x	_____	=	_____
Wednesday golf for late departures. Cost incl. cart, green fee, and prizes.	\$38	x	_____	=	_____
Wednesday farewell dinner.					
Chicken Dejon	\$16	x	_____	=	_____

TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED \_\_\_\_\_

NAME (as you want it on your nametag) \_\_\_\_\_

SPOUSE AND GUEST NAMES \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

ARRIVAL DATE \_\_\_\_\_ DEPARTURE DATE \_\_\_\_\_

ARE YOU STAYING IN THE HOTEL? YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_

DO YOU NEED ANY SPECIAL ASSISTANCE? \_\_\_\_\_

ARE YOU FLYING? \_\_\_\_\_ DRIVING? \_\_\_\_\_ RV? \_\_\_\_\_

NO TOUR CONFIRMATIONS WILL BE SENT  
YOUR CANCELED CHECK WILL SERVE AS YOUR CONFIRMATION

Mrs. Leon J. Bernard wrote that Leon passed away March 5, 1993 and that he so enjoyed reading the squadron magazine.

All these people are in our prayers and thoughts.

I received a letter from Robert H. Moran, who was on Thomas W. Bell's crew, which I will write more about in the next Latrine-O-Gram.

Anarillo, Texas  
 19 Jan. 1993

Dr. Joe Bastin  
 6800 Blue Spring Road  
 Cadiz, KY 42211

Dear Joe;

Here are some additions to The Eagles Nest that I have come upon just lately.

Alfred (Fred) Stanley Kowal  
 Born: January 15, 1922  
 Died: February 14, 1966  
 Buried in Arlington National Cemetery. Obtained from his brother Stanley Kowal of 200 Davis Ph, New Hartford, New York, 13413-1006.

Earl C. Aardal  
 Died in an automobile accident in a snow storm in Colorado in 1960. Was a Vice President of Ford Motor Company. Obtained from his Sister-in-Law Mrs. Bernice K. Aardal at 3010 Zion Ln. El Paso, Texas 79904-  
 Quid Fit.  
 Golden Nathan Jones

Our crew, Geo Josten, was also a replacement crew and I write more about them, with pictures, than any other. I've become friends with the original group and other squadron personnel since I've been going to the reunions and have had a great time and made many new friends. It's a comradery that is greater than my college fraternity, business or social clubs.

Hope everyone is well and happy and will see you in Reno.

QUID FIT,  
 JOE