



## 783RD LATRINE-O-GRAM

Late October, 1993

Lake Maxinhall  
Indianapolis, Indiana

Our August Reunion in Reno, Nevada, was a FUN event. President Robert Anderson and his bride, Rosella, (they live in San Antonio, TX) organized and operated a very successful get-together. Their efforts for the betterment of our SQUADRON are **MUCH APPRECIATED** by all the active participants. **THANK YOU, ANDY and ROSELLA!!!!**

The NEW OFFICERS are

Ralph Smith, President
Mike Magazzino, Vice President
Joe Bastin, Treasurer
Jack Meyer            )
George Josten        ) Co - Secretaries

The new officers are anxious to SERVE you. Please send new items you wish published to Jack or George in Indianapolis. Send your dues to Joe Bastin in CADIZ, Kentucky. HOPKINSVILLE is the REAL legitimate name of the larger town (near Cadiz) that Joe calls HOPTOWN. THANKS, JOE, for your excellent bulletins of the last two years. George and I have your good example to follow.

A little HUMOR: I showed a hill-billy friend of mine a "chain-saw" and suggested he use it in order to be able to cut more trees with less work. The other day he brought it back and "reckoned" he could cut just as many trees with his old trusty saw. I said "why?" and asked whether or not the chain-saw 'worked'? AND, then, before he answered, I pulled the cord and it roared to life. He LOOKED AMAZED and said "Where did that NOISE come from?"

COMMENTS FROM THE BUSINESS MEETING: Two years between reunions will continue to be our practice. Nashville, Tennessee, has been selected by majority at Reno and by solicited responses to be the site of our 1995 Reunion.

Membership DUES remain at \$15.00 per year but with an OPTION, i.e., you may pay \$50.00 for a Life Membership. Dues go to JOE BASTIN, 6800 Blue Spring Road, Cadiz, Kentucky 42211. Make checks to 783rd Bomb Squadron Association. Mainly, the DUES cover the COST of these bulletins and the Membership Roster printing and distribution. Postage is significant element.

Our Heritage: Our Board of Directors are assigned the task of recommendations for possible permanent use of part of the Association's liquid assets. They are to report at the 1995 Meeting in Nashville.

RED HUBER is studying the legalism of Eagle's Nest member's "next-of-kin" being full-fledged members (voting & dues paying) of the 783rd Bomb Squadron Association. He is to report when he has the facts.

MIKE MAGAZINE does a great job compiling the Membership Roster and providing the mailing labels for the BULLETIN. **THANKS, MIKE!!!**

FLOYD GREGORY, our Historian, is the 'man' to whom you should send items you deem to be positive improvements in our HISTORY. (One of my personal best memories were the "Dance Socials" we had in the "O" Club. Inviting neighboring nurses (American and South African) and Red Cross ladies to come to our parties was a real exercise in salesmanship - - - especially if they had been to our "Dance Social" before.

HARRY FIKE and his bride, Lola, -- remember the play, Damn Yankees) run the BEST "PX" GIFT SHOP our Squadron has ever had. He gets better "stuff" every year --- great 8 1/2 x 11 insignia sheets --- the novel new style lead pencil that never needs to be sharpened --- the VIDEO TAPES of our history --- LOOK UP Harry's address and tell him thanks for his fine job at Reno (and prior reunions). You may even want to ask him to sell you something relating to the Squadron. **THANKS, HARRY and LOLA!!!**

RICKY GREENE (Mrs. Harry Greene) sent her 1993 dues: "I enjoy the L.O.G. Couldn't make Reno reunion. Had to go EAST to New Jersey during oldest daughter's surgery. She's fine. Harry's been gone a year and 1/2 and things are getting better."

Financial status is "close" to \$12,000 as the transition to new Treasurer (Joe Bastin) assumes this responsibility. We'll report "bucks in the bank" regularly during our term as Secretary.

**AL HONEY'S** getting ready for joining the Nashville Reunion. Al and Elizabeth enjoyed the GET-WELL CARD sent from the Reunion!

PLEASE write to me when you have news of member's GOOD and BAD HAPPENINGS --- including family members.

**JOE and MARIE HARRISON** wrote to express their regrets about 'illness' keeping them from RENO. Joe's taking an aspirin-a-day to keep his arteries open. Our BEST to you.

**RAY and RUTH HEINOLD** report Ruthie's diagnosis of Lou Gehrig's Disease. Keep up posted on Ruthie's progress, Heinie. We share your challenge.

Our next L-O-G will have an extensive article about **GOLDEN JONES** and his kinfolk --- going back to the 1930's ----

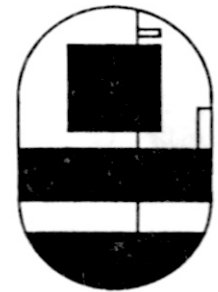
EVERY ATTENDEE at RENO REUNION is receiving a VOLUME of 48 poems from **IRIS DeLUCIA (and her husband, SANDY)**. The Volume is truly GEM QUALITY. We are very appreciative, IRIS and SANDY.

REMINDER: **JIM and MARGARET McCLOSKEY** have 'found' many of our Squadron members. We appreciate your efforts. Keep up the EFFORT.

**Zenith Books.** Not many of you have ever heard of it. But when you look over their catalog you can easily find items of interest to veterans or to lovers of the airplane. How about a video tape about the Ploesti raid? Or about the B-24 and how it fought during the war? Or glimpse into the future of the air by seeing a tape on space, simulation and/or actual flights. Many NASA film feet are available.

Maybe your interest is in models or books, radio controlled, WWII nostalgia of any kind, nose art, songs, slogans, weaponry.

There is no greater aviation book of this type in the country. Send for a copy, 1-800-826-6600 or Zenith Books, P.O. Box 1, Ocoola, WI 54020.



## Rush for the Rudders

I just received a call from Bob Collings informing me that the annual selection for group insignias on the rudders will be made October 31. The 465th is in the running again - among the top four.

A number of you have asked why it was taken off last year. To keep our insignia on we have to be one of the two top fund raisers each year. So, if you want to see the 465th markings on a rudder become a donar to the *All American*. Donations can be as little as \$24, or \$240 and your crew or plane name will be on *All American*. There are other categories like Distinguished Flight Command, which lists your name with your squadron and group. Contact Collings Foundation at 508 568-8924 or write to Box 248, Stow, MA 01775. Deadline is October 31.

The 781st Bomb Squadron has been the leading WWII B-24 Squadron in donations.

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

It doesn't seem possible that the Reno reunion is more than a month behind us. I have so many memories that are fresh in my mind. My wife, Kay, didn't feel up to making this one and my daughter, Peggy Friar came with me in her place. We arrived on Friday, a day or two early, and as we walked outside the Reno airport, who was sitting on the bench, awaiting transportation to the hotel, but Andy Anderson and his wife, Rosella! We hadn't been in the hotel long when Jim McCloskey called to give me some information that he knew would interest me. Before dark we had chatted with Jim and Peg McCloskey, Sam and Lynne Marie, Bill Douglas and his bride Catherine, and Clayton Van Dyke. And the reunion was still two days away! So it got better and better.

I appreciate the fact that at our business meeting, those present gave me this job by voting in the slate proposed by the nominating committee. We must have close to 400 people on our rolls, and only about 60 to 70 of the fellows were in attendance. So maybe I should tell you all who I am. I was the bombardier on Bob Swanzy's crew. We joined the 783rd in December, 1943 at McCook. We were shot down over Southern France on July 12, 1944. At that time Swanzy was a Captain and flight commander. He and our ball turret gunner, Lupe Montana, were killed in action that day. The rest of us evaded capture - actually we were with the French Underground, eventually flown out, returned to Pantanella - and on to the USA. Bob Thomas was our navigator, Bob Crabtree co-pilot, and Bill Nelson, assistant operations officer was flying with us. Besides Montana, our enlisted crew was Paul Hooge, Charles Cripps, Wilbur "Bob" Vaughan, Walt Wilson and Tom "Woody" Walsh.

I was very impressed by the job Andy Anderson has done as my predecessor, as I am sure you all are. I hope you also agree that the Armed Forces Reunions, Inc. people did a great job for us on the reunion. Several of our people also came forward to volunteer for various services. I hesitate to name names, lest I leave someone out - but I have to acknowledge "Gudo" Montgomery and Gladys for the floral centerpieces, the Einecker family for the golf day and dinner following and of course the always outstanding PX provided by Harry and Lola Fike.

There were some special highlights for me. Seeing my old boss, "Tito" Knaus and Frank Kara's co-pilot, Bob Haefner for the first time in 49 years was a thrill. I also met some very fine people for the first time. Wally and June Volkman and Connie and Afra Maffey had some kind things to say to me regarding something I had said in the business meeting, in one case, and at the banquet in the other. Wally also put me on the trail of a book about Ploesti which I have since located but not read yet. Wally tells me it was his first reunion. With the Maffey's - and with people like Ed Pereira, Jim May and even Jack Meyer, our new secretary It was a case of just getting to know them for the first time.

Burt Andrus told us in San Antonio there should be no more reference to categories of crews. Fine - and I want to elaborate on that a little in the next Latrine-o-Gram. I hope to stay in touch with over the next two years, and, God willing, to see a big turnout in Nashville in 1995.

Ralph Smith

DEDICATED TO THE BRAVE MEN OF  
**THE 783RD BOMB SQUADRON**

By Iris DeLucia

A lot of us never have another chance  
to **live**.  
Though no choice but bravery you men  
had to **give**.

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How proud I am to be standing here  
**tonight**.  
Among all you brave men, who had to  
really **fight**.

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Not knowing if each day was going to  
be your **last**,  
Proudly going forward, thanking very  
**fast**.

-----

How hard you men had to  
**try**,  
Some giving your **life**, all knowing  
you might **die**.

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How many tear's for the men not here  
**tonight**,  
To go down in history book's, you  
all have earned the **right**.

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The only way I can thank you for  
bringing my husband **home**,  
Is to let each and everyone of you  
know by writing you this **poem**.

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I'm proud to be here tonight  
among all of you brave **men**.  
For you only have memories now  
of where you have **been**.

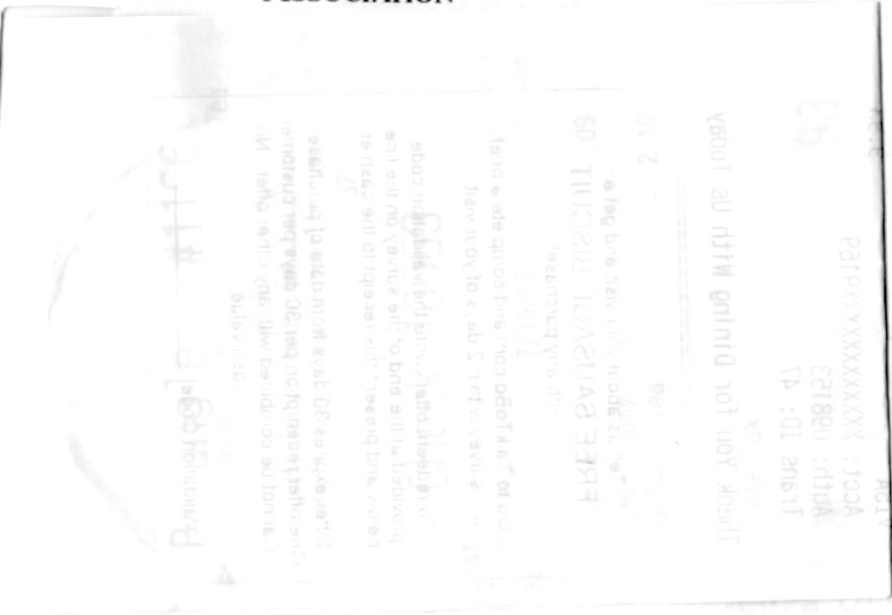
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God Bless all of you . . . . .

(A special thanks to Jim May and  
Nick Rodak for getting my husband  
Sandy DeLucia home safely.)

**783RD BOMB SQUADRON  
ASSOCIATION**

Nonprofit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
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Indianapolis, IN  
Permit No. 9850



**PLAN NOW FOR THE NEXT REUNION IN NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE IN THE  
EARLY "FALL" OF 1995 - - - - INCLUDE THIS IN YOUR VACATION PLANS!!**

**783RD OFFICERS FOR 1993 THRU 1995**

**PRESIDENT - RALPH SMITH - 83 KING STREET  
SCARBOROUGH, MAINE 67074**

**VICE - PRESIDENT - MIKE MAGAZZINE - 24023 EAST OAKLAND DRIVE  
BAY VALLEY, OHIO 44140**

**(DUES ACCEPTER) - TREASURER - JOE BASTIN - 6800 BLUE SPRING ROAD  
"MAKE" CKS. TO 783RD BOMB SQUADRON 8 CADIZ, KENTUCKY 42211  
ASSOCIATION**

**SECRETARY - JACK MEYER - 5503 SHOREWOOD DRIVE  
INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA 46220**

**CO - SECRETARY - GEORGE JOSTEN - 3064 PLEASANT DRIVE  
GREENFIELD, INDIANA 46140**

**ENJOY!!!!!!**