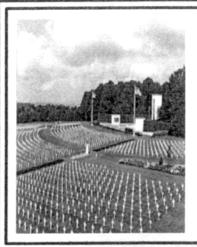


783rd Latrine O Gram

DECEMBER 2006

Fifteenth Air Force 55th Bombardment Wing





Our Sympathy & Condolences

To Family Members & Loved Ones of our Magnificent Squadron Members who have passed on

They Will Not Be Forgotten

A GRATEFUL 783RD BOMB SQUADRON ASSOCIATION



DON KAY-in the evening hours of New Years Eve 2005 while receiving care in an Assisted Living Facility cardiac arrest was responsible for making his final flite to Eagles Nest. Conceiving the idea to gather what Squadron members possible was Don's original idea. Enlisting the aid of Colonel Andrus & Dwight Reid he took the lead locating the majority of the attendees at the 1983 first gathering in Colorado Springs. At that gathering due solely to his initiative your Association was formed. Over time it became so successful often being copied but never duplicated. In July 1944 when the Fred Johnson Crew reported to the Squadron Don their Bombardier displayed the bravado & experience of being a combat veteran. On learning the Greenwood Crew had been 'scragged" and observing they had an outstanding tent with a cement block floor and many comfortable appointments such as a large table top centered on the tent pole & built in cabinets for all 4 occupants without hesitation his first act of gusto was to convince the Squadron wheels it should become the Johnson Crew tent.

While Sam Marie the Greenwood Crew Bombardier, who had not been 'scragged', was flying a mission his belongings were dispossessed, loaded and hauled over to the Petranek tent with whom he was now flying. And -the Johnson Crew moved into the Greenwood tent bag & baggage. It wasn't until over 40 years later Don was to return Sam's silver bars & a replica of his good luck charm that had been confiscated in the move. Within a short period of time he went on to become a Flite Leader and was to complete his 35 required sorties. When Korea came with the same gusto he volunteered for active duty and flew 27 combat missions as a B-29 Bombardier & Radar Officer. Always proud of his military service and a faithful reunion attendee anyone willing to lend an ear would have many war stories laid on them. In the book Wild Blue he had sought out Ambrose the author and was mentioned in 3 different places. On reviewing the period of his passing --- sometime in October or November the writer recalls his calling and our gathering some info he requested for a speech he was preparing to give some school children. At a reunion he wore a Scottish plaid kilt for one of the events. And- his plaid pants although having gone out of style 20 years earlier were his trade mark & proudly worn . Above all he took his service as a member of Board of Directors very seriously. In later years well into his 60s he joined the California Home Guard receiving an appointment to the rank of Lt Colonel taking great delight in answering the phone, "Colonel Kay". At the Snack Bar at Keesler Filed during training for Korea he met his Crew Commander's sister, Doris Waustrom a Registered Nurse who later succumbed to his sales pitch. All , who met this lovely lady, easily recognized she was without a doubt his greatest achievement. From that union two sons were born, Lawrence (Marina) & Robert (Debra) who presented he & Doris with 4 grandchildren. Following his separation from the Air Corps in 1945 he returned to Penn State and in 1947 earned an Industrial Engineering degree and later a degree in Civil Engineering from Youngstown State in 1956. He worked one year on the construction of the Alaskan Pipeline; 2 years as a Civil Engineer in Saudi Arabia retiring as Chief Cost Engineer for Ford Aerospace in California . You can bet your bottom dollar on his arrival at Eagle's Nest he immediately announced to St Peter, "there I was at 20,000 feet leading the Squadron with flak so heavy they could drop wheels and taxi on it and when we dropped -- all of the eggs covered the target". Had he not taken the initiative and located so many for the first gathering the Association may well have never come to be. For his initiative--- he is owed much by many and will not soon be forgotten. WE HAVE LOST ANOTHER OF THE BEST!

DONALD E. MURPHY-the son of Alvin Murphy, who will be remembered as the Engineer on the Chief Elliott Crew, passed away at his home on June 24, 2006. He was born 10-1-1949 and graduated from Sterling High School in Sterling, CO and Northeastern Junior College. He loved to read and was recognized as the town gardener in recognition of his flowers. He is survived by his father Alvin; brother Derrel Murphy and numerous nephews & nieces. It should be remembered Alvin is a person of great faith serving his POW Group as Chaplain as well as ministering to the local jail prisoners. This faith has enabled 'Alvy' to sustain himself thru the loss of his devoted wife Barbara during her long illness as well as that of another son.. ANOTHER GREAT LOSS!

HELEN MARIE WINTERS--in the early days of the Squadron Reunions Helen will be remembered as the wife of Harold Winters the Engineer on the Paul Cella Crew when they were both active in the Association. She was born March 11, 1926 and departed earth October 3, 2006. When attacked by carcinoma cancer she waged a desperate but loosing battle with a foe that simply over whelmed her even after 25 radiation treatments. Not only did she enjoy a sucessful working creer but served as an election poll worker. Services were held for her at the Reformation Lutheran Church where she was a charter member. In addition to Harold she is survived by daughters, Ronna Teets (Jim), Paula Flannagan (Denny), Susan Davala (Mike), Lori Maiberger (Mark) and son Mike Winters (Mary). In addition 7 grandchildren and 1 great-granddaughter. Also 2 sisters and many nephews and nieces. WE HAVE LOST ANOTHER GALLANT LADY!



GUY 'BARNEY' OLDFIELD-will be remembered as the Dispatcher at the Squadron Motor Pool who had the awesome task of attempting to keep that bunch of 'Moon Lite Road Runners' & Charlie Payne under control--a hopeless task. We were late in learning that 'Barney' made his final run on March 17, 2001 at the age of 81. He unfortunately suffered a abdomominal aneursym located in an inoperable position some 3 years before it claimed his life. Following his service days he was employed by the Westinghouse Corporation for 32 yers before retiring. His later life was similar to his days with the Squadron---a caring person always willing to lend a helping hand. He is survived by his wife Juanita; a son Ronald (Nancy); daughter Lynette Precht (Jerry); 7 Grandchildren & 13 Great grandchildren. WE HAVE LOST ANOTHER OF THE BEST!





HILL WALKER-the wonderful and understanding lady that allowed John Walker to park his shoes under her bed all these years had the misfortune all of us older folks dread. On May 1st she suffered a fall which required hip replacement surgery on May 2nd her 85th birthday. This procedure was followed by a lengthy rehab stay. Using will power and determination she was able to reach the standards of physical activity where she could be accepted to an Assisted Living facility where she and 'Big John' moved on 8-25-06 and are enjoying individual rooms in the Sky Land Oaks Retirement Center. Their phone number remains the same 205-758-6361 and their new mailing address can be found on the back page. WE WISH HER A LONG & CONTINUED RECOVERY!

JUNE FARAGE-will be remembered as the wife of Nyme Farage the 50 mission Bombardier & the only member of the Bates crew to avoid being 'scragged' and completing his missions. On return to the states he completed pilot training & transitioned becoming a P-51 'Jock'. As reported earlier 'Big Mama' has suffered a number of ailments & operations in these later years. Just when she was thought to be on the road to recovery the patella a flat triangular bone in the front of the knee joint in one of her knees began causing serious problems forcing the use of a walker and much assistance. Considering her having to ride herd on the 'Camel Driver' for 60 years it undoubtedly required much kicking of his posterior which in all probability contibuted to the patella problem. HAVE A GOOD RECOVERY 'BIG MAMA'!

"TRICKY DICK' TRIMMINGHAM-the Engineer-Gunner on the Heim Crew 'scragged' on the 24 August raid on Pardubucie, Czechoslovokia flying with Tom Clark when we clobbered the Fanto Oil Refinery causing the Jerry Fighters to hit hard in retaliation continues to battle his health problems. After not one but two seperate exploratory trips by the Gastroenterologist in both directions up & down plus numerous other tests the Medics remain confused saying, "he has an infection we can't locate". He reports a slow improvement. Hopefully, his down hill slide has been reversed and a good recovery looms on the horizon. Our offer is still on the table. If we are fortunate enough to make our annual California Xmas trip we will buy the lunch at the thousand Oaks Cheese Cake Factory. GET WELL-BIG GUY!

CONNIE MAFFEY-we received a reliable poop from group flash that our 60 years late recipient of a DFC has an aneuryism on his aorta that will require the 'butchers' to demonstrate their handy work. Is it possible the damage of the total fright suffered that on take off--was late showing up as his delayed decoration? Regardless, we all wish "OLE CONNIE' THE VERY BEST & A SPEEDY RECOVERY!

They are laid back; and take off for siesta each day. One soon realizes they are very creative using coral, shells and pearls to make many creative items that sell well with the tourists. The hand painted Pareos a simple piece of cloth you might call a sarong that most of the ladies wear is some 4 feet by 6 feet. They show great ingenuity by wrapping it around them in 52 different manners serving as their dress for all occasions. Some use it as only a skirt utilized with a Tee Shirt.

Their vanilla beans are among the most desired world wise and extensively grown bringing top prices. Likewise, Tahitian Pearls are in world wide demand and grown in farms all along their coastal waters. Odd shaped off colored ones what the writer considered undesirable start at \$100. With Pearl Stores at every stop the ladies with plastic were on a purchasing frenzy selecting multi strand necklaces with each pearl costing upwards of \$150 causing their husbands much anxiety. Anyone with a sense of humor visiting a pearl farm and learning how they are grown will get a big chuckle watching women shoppers rushing to buy them. The Polynesians import common, cheap, light colored Mississippi mud pearls inserting them into the oysters allowing them to grow for some two years or more. During this period nature builds thin layers of the darker gray grading to black with shades from green to purple blended in around the Mississippi mud pearl raising it's value to amounts from \$100 to as much as \$1,000s. Like so many things the famous Tahitian pearl organically grown—taken home and thrown into a dark jewelry box seldom used over time will slowly deteriorate in quality and value. They must be worn and carefully cared for to sustain their lustre and value.

When we stated they are polite & courteous the two ladies pictured above were great examples. After purchasing & paying for a special Pareo they were told- had I known 60 years ago of this Paradise I might well have been an immigrant. One commented, "you would have been in diapers ". When told I was over 80 years of age my drivers license was requested. One looked & exclaimed he is 83-the other immediately went to the cash register & promptly refunded the purchase price saying it was a gift and produced a camera taking our picture. A simple gesture of their sincerity and genuine friendly gestures a visitor receives. Your writer feels indeed blessed to have lived life in PARADISE— IF ONLY FOR TEN DAYS. Anyone doubting this statement only needs to visit the various islands of Polynesia where they will meet both women and men from all countries now living in what they term-PARADISE.



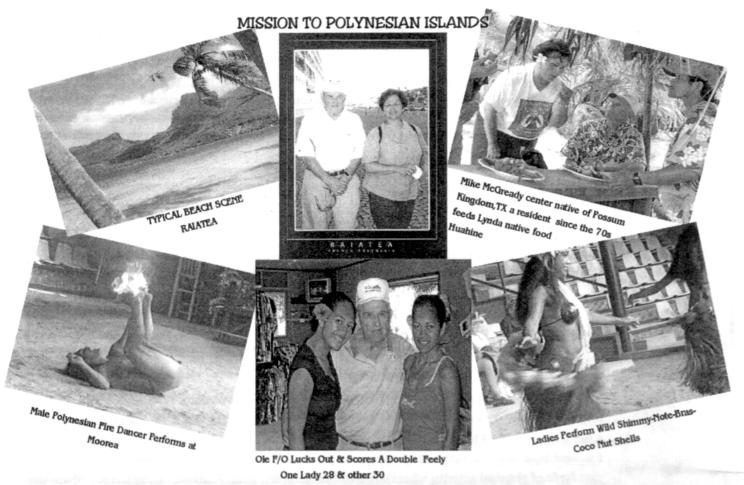
A plane was taking off from Kennedy Airposrt. After it reached a comfortable cruising altitude, the captain made announcement over the intercom, "Ladies & Gentlemen, this is your captain speaking. Welcome to Flight Number 2 nonstop from New York to Los Angeles. The weather ahead is good and therefore, we should have a smooth and unevent flight. Now sit back and relax......OH, MY GOD!" Silence followed and after a few minutes, the captain came back on intercom and said, "Ladies & Gentlemen, I am sorry if I scared you earlier. While I was talking to you, the flight attend accidentally spilled a cup of hot coffee in my lap. You should see the front of my pants!" A passenger in Coach yelled, "That's nothing. You should see the back of mine!"

This will explain why a large group of the old Italian Laundry Ladies would gather at the flite line each time the Squadron would return from a mission. Especially, on the days when Floyd Coffield, Frank Goplen & Jim Dulitz and some others too numerous to mention were chauffering. The ladies knew laundry business would be good.





START YOUR PLANNING TO ATTEND
THE
QUID FIT 2007 ROUND UP



Good Ladies, Gents & our special children & grandchildren. After 83 years of being fortunate for the opportunity to visit many parts of this world the 'Ole F/O' finally found PARADISE in Polynesia. On your arrival you will be hypnotized by the gorgeous colors of the water. Approaching the outer reefs that surround each island the water is the darkest blue indigo imaginable. Breaking over the reef it grades to a gorgeous dark jade gradually becoming lighter in color as the depth shallows approaching the beach with it becoming crystal clear where you can see every shell or other object & what you might think is white sand from 5 or 6 feet in depth till shore. In a glass bottom boat in Bora Bora an American guide who pioneered from South Dakota to Polynesia to work for the French government in 1967 as an Aquatic Specialist made the 'Ole F/O' realize how he had forgotten the basic fundamentals of Sedimentation studied in his profession as a geologist. Each island's composition is a volcanic extrusion mostly being very dark colored. Consequently, the rivers that flow down their mountain sides have no white sand to float down and distribute as beach material. It was a transfixing revelation to learn all the white sand is actually reworked coral from the outer reefs that was eaten by a special fish with two rows of teeth & excreted over eons of time-in short- one gigantic elimination from fish. The vegetation starts from very close to shore growing up the mountain sides. Once out of the cities the residents must clear this vegetation for their homes. Growing among the many fauna are papaya trees, mango trees, avocado plants almost trees, coconut trees, bread fruit trees, noni trees, bananas, pineapples etc that all grow in profusion. At each residence you will note a long pole with a net affair on the end the residents use to walk out and reach up & harvest their desired item. Complete stalks of bananas (much smaller than you are accustomed to) hang at most houses where the residents snap off one when desired. With only a short walk to the beach the only way they cannot catch fish for dinner is- not to put a hook in the water. Their meat supply is mostly pig, goat & chicken & what beef they eat coming mostly from New Zealand..

The people are the most polite, well mannered & courteous you will ever hope to meet. Also evidenced in their driving where anyone walking has the right away. It doesn't take one long after arrival to realize how far the American education trails that provided by the French. Mike McGready pictured above advised his daughter still in the equivalent of Junior High School already speaks, reads & writes 5 languishes. All you come in contact with speak acceptable English plus Tahitian, French etc. Students go to school 3 weeks off 1 week all 12 months. When the McGreadys' spent a year in the USA recently so his wife & daughter could learn American life style the daughter was held in awe by her American class mates since she was so far scholastically ahead of them.

SEPTEMBER 2006 LOGS RETURNED



Crime Convicted Of Not sending change of Address

TO ORDER A COPY GO TO:

www.roger-ball.com

DR JOSEPH A BASTIN-Marked Temporarily Away
SANDY DE LUCIA-Moved-No Forwarding Address
FRED JOHNSON-Moved-Did Not Forward Change of Address
FAY KNOUS- Moved- Did Not Forward Change of Address

HAVE YOU REPORTED

LAST AREA CODE &

PHONE NUMBER

CHANGE ?

NO NEW PHONE NUMBERS-FROM ABOVE

SNOW BIRD ADVISORY

Snow Birds & Ducks are most similar in behavior & actions. The Snow Birds struts around squawking and Ducks waddle around quacking. When the first snow falls both take off for sunnier climates. When the snow flies most 'Snow Birds' take off and never bother notifying of your departure with your LOGs being returned and your fellow Squadron Association footing your waisted mailing expense. This year act like 'somebody with consideration'. When fleeing your chosen uninhabitable environment take time to notify of your intentions. Surely, you can afford a 39 cent stamp or the effort to send an E Mail .

RECOMMENDED READING ROGER BALL

WRITTEN BY DON AUTEN

ALSO AVAILABLE AT www.Barnes&Noble.com www.Arnazon.com www.iUniverse.com

Don Auten retired as a 27 year Naval Pilot and graduate of Top Gun writes in a Combat Crew Member's words a factual narrative about Naval fighter planes and the men who operated them. In particular he chronicles the life of Captain Monroe'Hawk' Smith a 30 year Naval Fighter Pilot . The 'Hawk' is the only individual to have served as both the Executive Officer as well as the Commanding Officer of Top Gun. During those two periods the 'Hawk' had the opportunity to take on the top fighter pilots and is credited with plucking all of their tail feathers collectively and individually. It is written so every reader will feel as if they have experienced a 'fighter jocks' real life exploits. Plus, learning of how service politics affected the 'Hawk' not being an academy 'ring knocker'. Take it from the 'Ole F/O' it does not contain the laughable inaccuracies contained in Wild Blue about the life of George McGovern when he started flying B-24s with the 455th Bomb Group over near Cerignola long after the 783rd originals had completed their missions and returned to the states. Nor, does it contain the exaggerations contained in Yeager about Chuck Yeager's experiences. Knowing the 'Hawk' personally and having shoveled the bull with him over many hours you have our quarantee those interested in actual historical facts will have a hard time laying this book down once you start reading--it is the real thing. And--the author Don Auten is one slick & smooth word-smith. The 'Hawk's' only short coming was-he didn't have the opportunity for Salty Tarontino and your writer to take him under their wings and instruct him on being a' BTO' and the art of giving his Commanding Officers gray hair. If so, he would have been a cinch to have made Admiral.

GET YOUR COPY TODAY FOR SOME FACTUAL READING!

LATRINE O GRAMS BY WAY OF 4TH STOOL DOWN

BOBBY WILLS-when the first snow fell in Michigan he let out a 'loud squawk' packed his bags & fled west to sunnier climes in California. Until next April those poor California natives will have to listen to how great it is back in the sorry environment that necessitated his fleeing.

LEE & TEENY GILLESPIE-under the direction of Teeny the better half of that outfit they have traveled down to the Florida Keys to Margarettaville where they will celebrate their 60th Wedding Anniversay. A one dollar bet will get you a ten spot if it wasn't Lee that went into the bathroom and had the cry this time.

CONGRATULATIONS TO A GREAT COUPLE MOST SUPPORTIVE OF SQUADRON AFFAIRS!

BOB HAEFNER-reported in from his Surprise, AZ digs to advise of his attentions to attend Reunion 2007 with those two beautiful daughters introduced at Tucson as well as this time a 3rd will accompany them. He advised he had just celebrated his 87th birthday. **BOBBY BOY! HOPE YOU ENJOY MANY, MANY MORE!**

TIME IS APPROACHING TO COMPLETE TRANSITION

At the 2003 Savannah Reunion the Quid Fit membership Again at Tucson 2005 you members wisely elected Tom wisely recognized the sands of time was rapidly running out for the 'Ole Has Beens' and voted a change in your Constitutions & By Laws allowing for your children to hold elective office. This was the first step in assuring the continuation of the Association after the original Squadron members had long passed on. Even wiser was your choice of Nancy Feely Young as your new Treasurer. She quickly modernized the Treasury records so as to account for each and every cent spent. At the same time becoming recognized as a wise & intelligent head when evaluating & making Squadron policy decisions. Not too mention all, who have taken the time, learning she is a good 'Ole Gal' and much like her father Weyland Feely believing in Ouid Fit traditions.

Tennille the son of Art Tennille, who was Squadron Operations Officer, as your Vice President. Although his father was lost in combat in early 1945 Tom began attending reunions at Dayton in 1985. On assuming the VP job quickly modernized the Membership Roster and has proven capable of making decisions important to carrying on the Squadron traditions. At Reunion 2007 it is hoped & recommended our entire officer slate will be modernized to be composed of all children as well as some appointed to the Board of Directors. Such action will insure the Association continuation. Each 'Ole Timer' is urged to encourage their children not only attending 2007 Baltimore & their stepping forth and volunteering to hold office as Nancy & Tom have.

In a conversation this week with the President of another Squadron of the Group their President bragged," we too are enlisting our children as officers". A check of their newsletters does not reflect a single child presently holding office. Obviously, what he meant to say was-we have decided to follow the lead of the 783rd leadership. The 783rd led in the past and will continue leading in the future. PLAN NOW-- TO ATTEND REUNION 2007--AND--MAKE SURE YOUR CHILDREN ATTEND!

NEVER FORGET--OUR CHILDREN ARE OUR MOST VALUABLE ASSETS-- WE LEAVE ON DEPARTING! WITH THEIR SERVING AS OFFICERS YOUR ASSOCIATION WILL BE IN CAPABLE HANDS!

REUNION 2007

If you have noticed the reference to Reunion 2007 instead of Baltimore 2007 you have been alert and on the ball. Permit our explanation. Following your vote where Baltimore won by 2 votes over Charleston, SC negotiations began with various motels and hotels. It soon became apparent Baltimore is 'Piggy Backing' on Washington, DC where there is no shortage of lobbyist funny money. The lowest room prices quoted was \$119/nite at a Comfort Inn with meal prices & cash bar prices equally out of proportion. When tax was added this totaled some \$140/nite. Knowing the 782nd held a reunion near Falls Church, VA and our Paul Tobin, Dave Reeher & Carl Milburn had attended we called Paul & learned it was held at a Double Tree Inn which was contacted. They asked a price of \$139/nite; \$350 for a cash bar plus \$100 for a cashier & meals beginning at \$35/plate. Paul confirmed when tax was added this meant \$150/nite they paid. At that point with Bob Wills your Reunion Chairman departing for California agreed the prices were exorbitant as did Nancy Young & Tom Tennille. It goes without saying when all was added up it would be a very expensive reunion which would discourage attendance.

Recognizing had such prices been known Charleston instead of loosing by two votes would quite possibly have been favored. The officers agreed a check should be made and if more favorable prices were available you members be allowed to make the decision by voicing your choice. Charleston Holiday Riverside Inn has quoted a rate of \$89/nite. Tom Tennille verified this as being acceptable for an East Coast location.

It is hoped each of you will appreciate your officers have made every effort to follow the dictates of our Constitution & By Laws at the same time felt it would be a failure of our fiduciary responsibility not to inform you of the situation described above. Accordingly, if you will mark your choice on the enclosed sheet and return to Nancy Young by December 20, 2006 we will do our best to put together the best reunion possible at the most economical prices we are capable of negotiating with the results presented in the March 2007 LOG

QUID FIT

SAM

783 BOMB SQUADRON ASSOCIATION

SAM MARIE 13306 LOBELIA SAN ANTONIO, TX 78232

(RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED)



REPORT ADDRESS & PHONE CHANGES TO

TOM TENNILLE; 2067 N. JEFFERSON ST; MILLEDGEVILLE, GA 31061 478 452 1759

ADDRESS CORRECTIONS & ADDITIONS

John & Hill Walker; % Sky Land Oaks Retirement Cntr; 5001 Old Montgomery Hghwy; Tuscaloosa, AL 35405

Leo & Becky Meyer 5823 N 400 West; Bargersville, IN 46106

Fred Johnson 7501 E Thompson Peak Pkwy Unit 344; Scottsdale, AZ 85255

Fay Knous; 799 Yellowstone Dr Apt 141; Vacaville, CA 95697

Karl D Stubenberger; 1480 Applewood Ct Apt 407; Roseville, MN 55113

AREA CODE CHANGES

PHONE CHANGES CORRECTIONS & ADDITIONS

Leo & Becky Meyer 317-535-8444 John & Hill Walker 205-758-6361 Dave Rreeher 703-321-9727

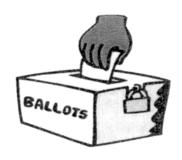
783RD OFFICERS
SAM MARIE-PRESIDENT
TOM TENNILLE- VICE PRESIDENT

NANCY YOUNG-TREASURER

BOB WILLS-SECRETARY

DIRECTORS

COLONEL ROB'T ANDERSON
HARRY FIKE
FRANCIS A. GOPLEN
DONALD KAY
MIKE MAGAZZINE
STAN PACE
RALPH SMITH







DECISION TIME

As explained on page 7 it will be much more expensive to attend Baltimore compared to Charleston. With only two votes having seperated your original selection it was thought best for all to rethink their original decision. Even the some can handle the increased financial burden it is hoped all will consider those it might work a financial hardship on. Therefore, your officers were unanimous in their opinion it should be decided by a collective Squadron conscience vote.

HAVING BEEN AFFORDED A VOTE OF YOUR CHOICE-PLEASE DETACH PORTION BELOW: MARK YOUR SITE SELECTION-AND MAIL TODAY!

IT IS IMPORTAN TO MARK AND RETURN YOU VOTE SO AS TO BE RECEIVED NO LATER THAN 12-25-06
THIS WILL AFFORD TRAVEL TIME FOR FINAL NEGOTIATION & REUNION EVENT PLANNING
TO BE REPORTED IN THE MARCH 2007 LOG

With your Reunion Chairman Bob Wills 'snow birding' in California please return you decision to:

NANCY YOUNG	
3802 FAIRHAVEN	
MIDLAND, TX 79707	,
DETACH ALONG DOTTED LINE & MARK SINGLE SELECTION BEFORE	
MAILING:	
MAILING:	
	PLEASE REMEMBER
MAILING: 2007 REUNION SELECTIONS SITE	
	MARK & RETURN
2007 REUNION SELECTIONS SITE	
	MARK & RETURN
2007 REUNION SELECTIONS SITE	MARK & RETURN YOUR SELECTION BEFORE 12-25-06
2007 REUNION SELECTIONS SITE	MARK & RETURN YOUR SELECTION BEFORE 12-25-06 NANCY YOUNG
2007 REUNION SELECTIONS SITE	MARK & RETURN YOUR SELECTION BEFORE 12-25-06