



783rd Latrine O Gram

2004
SEPTEMBER 2001

Fifteenth Air Force
55th Bombardment Wing

A MESSAGE FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

It is always a great feeling when a reunion for which you are responsible is successful. In spite of the fact that so many of you had scheduling conflicts and were unable to attend the mini here in the Quad Cities, we still had a wonderful turnout. Our final count was 30 compared to two years ago when we had 38. It was unfortunate that health problems kept the Forsbergs and Dale Reeves from attending after they had made plans to attend. For most of the attendees it was their third trip back to the Quad Cities and all said that they enjoyed their repeat visit. And visit they did – the Hospitality Room was well occupied during most of the free time. Carl and Carol Lind were the only “first timers” to a mini reunion while Connie and Afra Maffey had been here once before. We appreciated all the love and support we received from the attendees and missed those that couldn’t attend.

The Volkman/Fike golf team really pulled off a coupe this year, we came in second. That is the best showing ever. I hope this doesn’t discourage Bo Bolinski from fielding a team next year.

Since Sam wasn’t here to report on the reunion in his inimitable fashion, several attendees volunteered to report on the various activities. Their reports will be found elsewhere in this issue.

The decision by the Board of Directors on our 2005 reunion site should be made in time for the March LOG so we need your suggestions in the next few months – the sooner the better. The only package I have at the present time is for Buffalo, New York. If you have a suggestion, please give me as a minimum the reasons you think that the squadron would enjoy going to the suggested city. A letter received last week suggested Tucson, Arizona or Branson, Missouri. I will review all of your suggestions, do additional research where necessary, and make my recommendations to the Board for their approval.

Harry Fike

| 9/15/2004 | | | | |
|---|---------------------------|-----------------------|----------------|------------------------|
| ATTENDEES | | | | |
| 783rd 2004 MINI REUNION, QUAD CITIES, USA | | | | |
| NAME(S) | | | | |
| Amhof, Roger & Cheri | 18210 - 230th St | Davenport, IA 52804 | (563) 285-8165 | cheri@amhof.com |
| Christensen, Clarence & Ruth | P.O. Box 51 | Valparaiso, NE 68065 | (402) 784-2461 | clrucris@msn.com |
| Fike, Harry & Lola | 1132 W. 53rd St, Unit D-2 | Davenport, IA 52806 | (563) 391-2807 | hdfike@cs.com |
| Fike, Randall & son Rustin | 9800 Reese Rd | Clarkston, MI 48348 | (248) 620-0861 | rsfike@pati-air.com |
| Forbes, Joe & Shirley | 74 Summit Pointe Ct | St Charles, Mo 63301 | (636) 916-4528 | |
| Hartman, Randy & Lindsay | 711 So 10th St | Eldridge, IA 52748 | (563) 285-1392 | lindsay@amhof.com |
| Huston, Murv & Kay | 955 N. 6th St | St Clair, MI 48079 | (810) 329-4583 | murvhuston@comcast.net |
| Bouck, Dwight & Patti (Huston) with Christopher & Anna | 1617 Wadsworth Lane | Wheaton, IL 60187 | | |
| Jackson, Cleo & Susanne | 2411 N. Glade Rd | Loveland, CO 80538 | (970) 667-8857 | csjack783@webtv.net |
| Kulczyk, Eugene & Mary Karen Wnek & Joyce Urban | 60 Miami Prwy | Cheektowaga, NY 14225 | (716) 633-6497 | birdlover33@juno.com |
| Lind, Carl & Carol | 1016 Winthrop Ln | Rockford, IL 61107 | (815) 399-4381 | |
| Maffey, Connie & Afra | 30 Wedgewood Dr | Carlisle, PA 17013 | (717) 240-0177 | |
| Volkman, Eric (Wally) & June | 41 Mocking Bird Ln | Oak Brook, IL 60523 | (630) 654-1229 | |

Davenport Mini reunion report written by Karen Wnek daughter of Gene Kulczyk

"Thursday could not come fast enough for Gene Kulczyk who took his usual position in the lobby as informal greeter. As the 783rd squadron and their wives and loved ones rolled in we all gathered together in the hospitality room for a delicious banquet (as always) of hot and cold appetizers and sandwiches made expertly by Cheri Amhof and Lola Fike.

President Harry Fike welcomed everyone and went over the weeks itinerary. Pictures were passed around and everyone got caught up with the past year. All in all it was fun night for everyone, then off to bed for the next day of scheduled events. Respectfully submitted, Karen Wnek"

Davenport Mini reunion-portion of quotes written by Afra wife of Connie Maffey

"On Friday evening September 10, all of us were invited to Cheri and Roger Amhof's beautiful farm house for a rib feast. We expected an outdoor barbecue, eating at picnic tables and rustic environment, instead we were caught in a complete surprise by the sheer elegance of the rib feast. Besides which, we felt the genuine pleasure of our hosts in receiving us into their beautifully restored and expanded farm house.

"We know what it takes to make a meal such as we were offered; they did it to honor us, to say thank you, to let us know they were so grateful for what our generation won for them. Through their loving labor, they made us feel that their actions would speak what their hearts could not utter. And so, we sat and ate that delicious food on an outdoor patio bedecked with plants and flowers on a glorious September night, surrounded by cornfields on all sides. We were happy to talk the kind of real talk that is shared in the presence of those who value heart felt convictions: about women and culture, about war and peace, about politics and children in a way in which we belonged to each other in time and place".

Davenport Mini reunion written & reported by Murv Huston

"Harry Fike pulled off another Winner. The Squadron Farewell Dinner was delicious, everybody had a nice time and spent time talking with other attendees. All the participants were introduced, including the guests. It was nice meeting the Fike's family again, Roger & Cheri Amhof and the Fike's son Randal and his son Rustin (a Michigan State Student), Granddaughter Lindsay and husband Randy Hartman. I got to introduce my daughter Patti and her husband Dwight Bouck and their two children Christopher and Anna. Dwight stood to thank all veterans for what they had done in WWII, he was a 10 year navy carrier pilot, and now flies for AA. It was a very nice dinner and great crowd".

Davenport Mini reunion portion of quotes written & reported by Wally & June Volkman

"While attending the 783rd mini reunion our group took a tour to the Rock Island Arsenal facility which was arranged by President Harry Fike. Since he was employed there in his civilian career he had a lot of connections for this special tour. We were furnished with a very

continued

Davenport Mini Reunion written by Wally & June Volkman continued from page 2

knowledgeable tour director. He was assisted by a most charming young lady who graduated from Ambrose College in Iowa.

We were picked up at the Signature Inn in a beautiful air conditioned bus. As we entered the grounds we were shown a private Golf Course not operated by the Army. We were shown the National Cemetery on the grounds which had graves of soldiers from the War of 1812, Civil War and every conflict after, including Desert Storm. There were 2000 graves of Confederate soldiers. The grave stones had points on the top to prevent YANKEES from sitting on them. This was a prisoner of war compound from the Civil War.

We were shown the home of the Commander of the Arsenal which is the 2nd largest home in the U. S. for a military commander next to the White House in D.C.

When we entered the manufacturing facility we transferred to a trolley which was quite plush. The facility was large (several million sq. ft.). Production of various pieces of armament was almost 100% manufactured under one roof: This included 1. Foundry 2. Mold making 3. Casting 4. Machining 5. Fabrication 6. Assembly 7. Crating & Shipping.

The most current items being produced was the complete production of the armored doors* which were designed and built for the HUMVEES*. The first doors were shipped by air to Iraq to Iraq within 90 days.

There are 6 000 civilian and 250 military employed on the base. We were really impressed with the facility because it is so vital to our war effort.

The tour director answered all our questions with patience and 'smarts'. Our tour lasted a little over an hour and we were met by the bus to return us back to the Inn."

The asterisk* and underline under the words armored doors & HUMVEES were entered by your writer of this 'rag sheet' in the interest of comparing propaganda versus truth. We play golf 3 times per week at the Ft Sam Houston Golf Course. Since the beginning of the conflict in Iraq seldom has three weeks passed that we haven't been afforded the opportunity to talk with young soldiers 'missing body parts' just back convalescing at the nearby Brooks Army Medical Center. To escape the monotony of hospital life they come over to the Golf Course Club House for a few libations at the bar affording us the opportunity to talk with them. Bitter doesn't begin to describe their feelings over the shortage of armored doors. This is one of the true facts revealed by the media for months both printed and over the air. Recently in a conversation jaw to jaw a kid missing a leg and badly shot up blamed the lack of armored doors for his plight. When told the 6 000 workers at the Rock Island Arsenal were dishing out propaganda on their 90 day delivery he turned to his friends and said, " hell, we have more enemies then the 'rag heads' ". The 'Knowledgeable Tour Director' obviously was Dan Rather's first cousin. He tooted his whistle as to how they had delivered armored doors within 90 days. Yet, conveniently failed to advise they would not in the coming days be turning out any of the doors needed to alleviate the shortage that is causing our troops such great losses. To have done so would have brought on serious questions as to WHY? Honest answers might well be revealing and embarrassing. That my good folks is why those on the 'grave train with biscuit wheels' employed in those 'political play pens' are as slick with info & alibis as two bit Washington politicians. When you talk to either one they are slicker and more difficult to pin down than a drop of mercury in the bottom of a rounded container.



TAPS
IN MEMORY OF OUR EAGLES NEST FLITE MEMBERS
MAY THEY REST IN PEACE KNOWING THEY ARE NOT
FORGOTTEN

GEORGE BEVINGTON-a 25 mission bombardier on the Paul Cella crew passed away recently. WE HAVE LOST ANOTHER OF THE BEST !

We apologize for not being able to give more information on George. However, he chose not to complete and return a questionnaire. When his daughter called and informed Mike she promised to send a copy of his obituary. It was never received. In a LD call to Harold Walton a crew member he couldn't provide any additional info. Once again this should serve as a reminder to designate someone to forward your obituary if you failed to complete the original one included in a LOG some years back. Or, drop us a line and one will be sent.

E MAIL MESSAGE FROM SOMEONE WHO KNOWS THE SITUATION

"Dear Dad,

This is another perspective on the situation in Iraq...the press is bias as hell, but also they know "bad news" sells...whether it's here in the States or overseas, violence and killing sells...people doing good doesn't. It's no different than when Marianne and I were in Saudi Arabia...everyone thought we were being attacked and threatened everyday when in actuality we were safer than if we were in San Antonio or DC, and we were having a great time...Mark (their son serving in Iraq) says the same things....are there problems, sure but would you walk the streets of downtown DC or NYC at night by yourself...heck no. A good departure point, there were 10 Marines killed in all of Iraq over the last 3 days...how many people were murdered in Los Angeles or Detroit, or NYC over the weekend, let alone in the whole state of CA, or MI or NY. Let's keep it all in perspective...please pass this to your friends and our relatives.

Love you, Mike"

E Mail from Major General Mike Farage USAF Ret to his father our Nyme Farage. Mike was stationed in Saudi immediately following his talk to our Omaha Reunion and only retired and returned home following the major fighting in Iraq.

IF LOVE IS BLIND WHY IS LINGERIE SO POPULAR ?

NANOTECHNOLOGY MAY BE IMPORTANT IN YOUR FUTURE

By L.A. LOREK

EXPRESS-NEWS BUSINESS WRITER

In a small lab near the medical center, researchers at Advanced Bio Prosthetic Surfaces make nanotechnology materials that will change the medical device industry.

"We're making metallic mesh that has one-third the thickness of a human hair," said Dr. Julio C. Palmaz, the inventor of the original arterial stent and co-founder of ABPS.

Five years ago, Palmaz — a world renowned inventor and radiologist at the University of Texas Health Science Center — joined with Christopher E. Banas, a former medical device industry executive, to form ABPS. Dr. Steven Bailey, a nationally known cardiologist and professor at UTHSC is also a partner.

The privately held company creates the next generation of arterial stents, which help widen arteries blocked by fatty deposits, and other vascular devices using nanotechnology or science at an atomic and molecular level.

ABPS researchers have invented the "covered stent," which consists of super-thin metallic film that can be implanted into the arteries to prevent blockages. The new stent lasts longer and works better than conventional stents, Palmaz said.

Conventional stents are made of stainless steel that can become contaminated during the manufacturing process and lead to the stent corroding in the body.

Using a process known as nanosynthesis, ABPS researchers have improved the material used to make the stent, which then leads to fewer impurities.

Since the mesh cannot be made with regular machinery, ABPS created its own. It has received 15 U.S. patents and has 100 more pending on its nanotechnology materials, processes and machines.

One machine can vaporize nickel and titanium and redeposit it into a tiny tube-like form. That material is then sent to another company, which inserts microscopic holes into it, creating a mesh that is capable of stretching and being inserted into an artery. Just-completed tests in pigs have demonstrated that the material allows blood vessel cells to grow on the stent's surface.

"The original stent went through many evolutions of designs but the material remained relatively stable," Palmaz said.

Last year, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration approved the use of drug-coated stents, which seep medication into the artery to prevent it from becoming blocked again. But Palmaz believes improving the material will lead to even greater success with stents in the body.

To get started, ABPS didn't raise any venture capital. But Palmaz and his angel investor for the original stent, restaurateur Phil Romano, put up the money. ABPS also licensed the technology from the University of Texas Health Science Center, which received a 6 percent ownership stake.

UTHSC earned \$12.6 million from the original stent and it expects to earn millions more from the latest invention, said Alan H. Dean, director of its office of technology ventures.

"The breadth of the technology is immense," Dean said.

A major medical device company already has received an exclusive license for ABPS's medical technology, which can be used to create materials for bare stents and stent grafts, valves, vascular grafts, filters, angioplasty balloons and other devices, Banas said.

In November, ABPS plans to start its "first in man" studies, which is one of the final steps before widespread human clinical trials begin in the U.S. Those trials will take place in 40 patients in Mexico, Argentina and Brazil. Some of the doctors who performed the first stent trials in the 1980s will be involved in this one.

"The stent was born out of trying to provide a solution to a problem," Palmaz said. "In this case, we already knew stents and the technology worked and we wanted to go the next step."

In 1978, Palmaz came up with the original idea for the stent. But it took many years to convince investors and others that the idea was worth pursuing. In the 1980s, he teamed up with restaurateur Romano, known for creating Macaroni Grill and Fuddrucker's, who put \$250,000 into Expandable Grafts Partnership.

That investment led to the "Palmaz Balloon Expandable Stent," which eventually paid millions to Romano, Palmaz and the UTHSC after Johnson & Johnson's Cordis unit bought the patent.

Today, stents are widely used with millions implanted into patients worldwide every year. But the procedure has had some problems with stents failing in about 30 percent of patients who receive them when scar tissue builds up around

the stent and recloses the artery. That's one of the reasons why Palmaz and Banas teamed up to create a better stent.

"We wanted to make materials that behave better than existing materials in the body," Banas said.

With just 35 employees, Banas runs a lean operation at ABPS. Just in the past year, he has hired 10 people from the defunct Philips semiconductor plant and another four from Sony, which shut down last year. Nanotechnology hails from techniques developed in the semiconductor industry used to make tiny motors and gears on a single slice of silicon. So the workers have been a real boon for ABPS, Banas said.

With nanotechnology, APBS plans to create microscopic and submicroscopic electromechanical systems to be incorporated in the stents, Banas said. The technology could lead to "smart" stents that could communicate with doctors from inside the body, he said.

The whole focus of the company is to invent, develop and establish proof of concept and then exclusively license the technology to major medical device makers and let them manufacture, market and sell the devices, Banas said.

But APBS doesn't plan to evaporate once the deal is done. Nanotechnology and ABPS' patents may lead it into new territories beyond medicine.

"We're here for the long haul," Banas said.

llorek@express-news.net

Many years back while reading of an apes heart being stopped & restarted by defibrillation predicted one day an individual would live life with a small defibrillator implanted in his or her chest- we laughed and made jokes of such a thought. Today the joke is on us. On Xmas day 1995 we experienced cardiac arrest two times with the prompt use of a defibrillator restoring life on both occasions. However, this left us living a very restricted life due to a faulty electrical system that made the heart go into irregular rhythms with prescription drugs being unreliable control agents. Almost 3 years back a combo defibrillator-pace maker slightly smaller than a snuff can was implanted in our left chest with wires threaded around the lungs to each side of the heart. This permits an unrestricted life traveling alone when ever we choose. The 'Heart Mechanics' here at the medical school advise Nanotechnology will provide many unbelievable solutions to multiple medical problems. NANOTECHNOLOGY---don't laugh-you may be as wrong as we were once. It may become a part of your life.



FLOYD GREGORY—the 50 mission Engineer from the Heim Crew, who has contributed so much to the Association writing the LOG and preparing the great history book, is suffering the 'punies'. He was diagnosed with a deep seated infection in his foot with the cure being no bed of roses. He presently has a tube in his arm running from above his elbow up and into his chest. Every 12 hours he must attach a large bottle of enriched antibiotics that takes approximately an hour to be transfused. This treatment will be 6 weeks in duration.

During this time he must not place any weight on the foot necessitating employment of either crutches or a motorized scooter when moving about. Residing in a large retirement home many others must be riding scooters. Hope he doesn't get frisky and challenge any of these to a race—don't desire having to report his having a collision 'busting' his 'klatoochie'. Get well 'Ole Friend'—looking forward to seeing you at the 2005 'Round Up'—more so your pretty wife Jean!

MIKE MAGAZINE—our 'Italian Stallion', who served so great down on the lime and so faithfully and long as an Association Officer and presently on the Board of Directors of the Association still cranking out the mailing labels for each issue of the LOG, questions why his knees are failing him. He doesn't comprehend the many miles those short legs have carried him and the numerous times his knees have flexed. After 80 plus years they should be experiencing wear & tear. We will bet our interest in hell when the bugle blows for the next reunion he will be present handing out his muchly appreciated directories he has prepared so many times. And—you can bet the farm his wonderful wife Sarah will be at his side directing him down the straight and narrow.



AUGUST 24, 1944 LOMY, CZECHOSLOVAKIA

On the raid to Pardubucie, Czechoslovakia that morning the Gunners on the good bird Sans Souci lost a dispute with a couple of Kraut fighters. This resulted in the crew led by Captain Tom Clark the 783rd Operations Officer having to take the 'silk elevator' ride down while the ole bird pictured made what one might call a bad landing on it's own in the area of Lomy. Russ Christiansen the Navigator from the Coffield crew had the bad luck to be attempting his 50th mission only to end up a POW. Your writer was making his number 49th. Don't think watching them fall back knowing they would be guests of the Germans come dark wasn't on our minds 4 days later while flying our final mission.

PHOTO COURTESY -MICHAL ZEMAN Dobruska, Czechoslovakia

IMPORTANT INFO & THOUGHTS REGARDING REUNION SITE SELECTION

What follows are portions of thoughts and recommendations received from many of you regarding past & present reunion selections sites passed along to the powers to be-- with hopes they would be honored in the selection process:

QUOTE::

10-17-04

Harry,

Following discussions with numerous members including some on the board all expressed various suggestions regarding the 2005 Reunion site selection. The consensus of their thoughts are offered below as constructive items for your consideration:

PAST REUNION STATISTICS

| <u>NO ATTD'G</u> | <u>REUNION LOCATIONS</u> |
|------------------|--------------------------|
| 137 | 1993 RENO-REGULAR |
| 150 | 1995 NASHVILLE-REGULAR |
| 95 | 1997 ST LOUIS-REGULAR |
| 85 | 1999 KANSAS CITY-REGULAR |
| UNAVAILABLE | 2000 DAVENPORT-MINI |
| 84 | 2001 OMAHA-REGULAR |
| 38 | 2002 DAVENPORT-MINI |
| 97 | 2003 SAVANNAH-REGULAR |
| 30 | 2004 DAVENPORT-MINI |

SOURCE OF ATTENDANCE FIGURES:

REGULAR REUNIONS-RALPH SMITH-PAST PRESIDENT & BOARD MEMBER

MINI REUNIONS-HARRY FIKE-PRESIDING PRESIDENT & BOARD MEMBER

WHEN EXAMINING NUMBERS- Note when you connect Omaha, Kansas City, St Louis & Davenport with a line on an Atlas Type Road Map you find an irregular rectangle. If this area is thought of as an irregular circle and a approximate center point is selected it can be said the 4 cities are within an approximate 150 plus or minus mile radius. It will reveal 6 of the last 7 Reunions were held in this rectangle all experiencing declining attendance. This strongly suggests you cannot force the members to spend their travel dollars traveling to uninteresting locations. And- anywhere near must be avoided when considering the 2005 Reunion Site.

When the above attendance figures are examined it will be noted between 1993 and 1995 the attendance increased. Between 1995 and 1997 when the 6 of next 7 reunions commenced in the above rectangle the attendance started immediate decline and has continued at each of the succeeding reunions since. Yet, when exiting this rectangle the attendance at Savannah, a site far removed, experienced a decided increase. Modern Math (where two plus two can equal more or less than four) advocates will contribute the attendance decline from 1997-2003 to illness & deaths and conclude those attending had a great time. With the attendance increase at Savannah the Grocery Store Math (where two plus two must equal four- no more or less) advocates can argue the reason be attributed to exiting the above rectangle of decline for a more interesting reunion site caused the ill to exit their wheel chairs and the dead to rise from their graves to rejoin once again. **UNQUOTE**

The fact that only 7 members, who actually served with the Squadron, elected to journey to Davenport for the recent Mini Reunion prompted documenting & forwarding the above thoughts in an effort to encourage a site far removed to promote the continuation of attendance increase experienced at the Savannah regular reunion. When recommending a site keep in mind the air transportation available-preferably a Hub. Example-at Davenport your President found it less expensive to rent a chauffeured limousine for a round trip to O'Hare in Chicago than any air fare available. Provide the suitable Motel-Hotel situation for some 40-50 rooms price. Any site recommended should have at least one attraction like the 8th Force Museum for a tour attraction. Unfortunately, these are a minimum of info that will be demanded for your recommendation to be given consideration. The above are based on facts and past observations. What are yours? **REGARDLESS--SEND YOUR RECOMMENDATION NOW--and they will be printed in the December Xmas LOG. Hopefully, this will encourage the powers to be-- give them fair consideration. REMEMBER! VOICE YOUR OPINIONS & DEMAND TO BE BE HEARD ! THE OFFICERS SERVE AT YOUR PLEASURE ! THE SQUEAKING WHEELS ALWAYS GET THE GREASE ! YOU HAVE THE POWER TO CONTROL THE FUTURE OF YOUR ASSOCIATION ! TAKE PEN & PAPER IN HAND TODAY !**

QUID FIT !

SAM

783 BOMB SQUADRON ASSOCIATION

SAM MARIE

13306 LOBELIA

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(RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED)



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