



783rd Latrine O Gram

September 2008

Fifteenth Air Force
55th Bombardment Wing

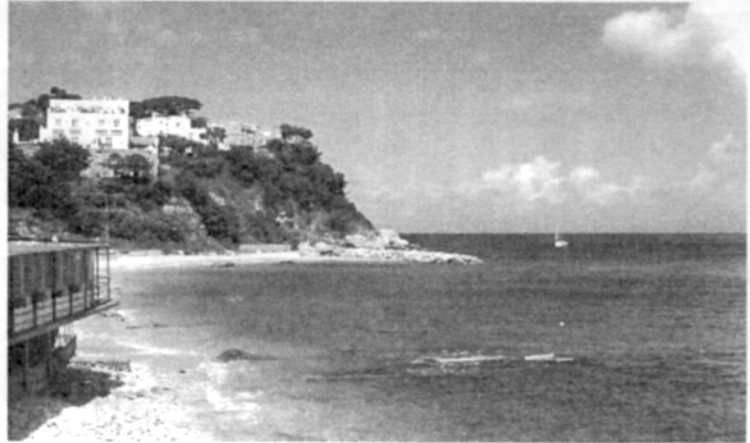
Ole F/O Returns After 64 Years



View Following Cog Ride Up From Landing



Left View On Arriving Capri



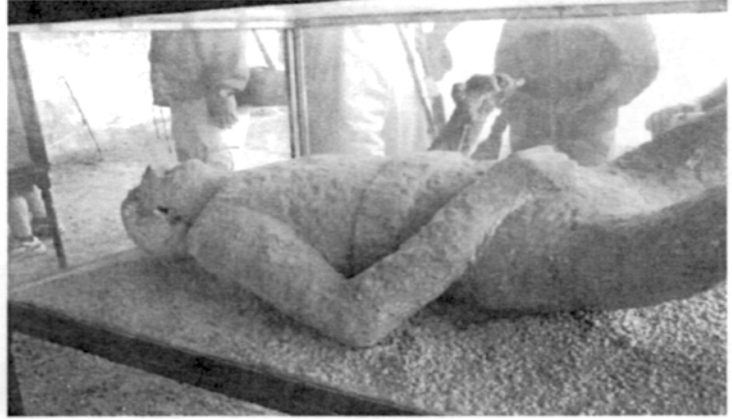
Right View On Arriving Capri



May these photos revive long ago memories for you'Ole Drafted Recruits"



SLEEPY SORRENTO HAS AWAKENED & BECOME A MOST DESIRED DESTINATION



Pompeii Continues A Tourist Attraction--No Store Would Accept American Dollar--Euros Only--Thanks To Your Congress Person

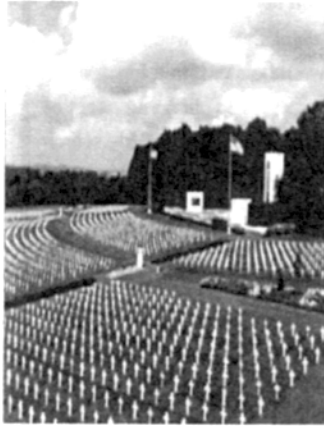


20,000 Visit The Vatican & Lions Den Daily -Near Either Place- An Ordinary Diet Coke Costs 4 Euros X \$1.56 American = \$6.24



Church & Famous Statue of Bad 'David' Boy both located on Square in Florence pictured in such movies as Under the Tuscany Sun





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

PAUL HOOGE—made his final flite to Eagle's Nest 7-12-08. Paul will be remembered as the Engineer on the Swanzy crew that fateful day when 'scragged' on the Nimes, France raid 7-12-44 some 64 years to the day earlier while on his 31st mission. Although wounded he managed to evade capture some 7 days before making contact with the underground. This group spent 4 months aiding him reach the coast where he was smuggled aboard a fishing boat and transported to Isle of Sardinia and later returned to the states. Following his service days he became a Produce Buyer making quite a name in that field with his many innovations. Recognizing his expertise many large firms employed the services of the L. A. Hooge Company to purchase large shipments of vegetables & fruits from the growers. He was the innovator of many new packing & shipping methods plus adapting large shipments by refrigerated trucks to nationwide markets. Over the years Paul acquired quite a reputation for his fair dealing. Large growers with hundreds of acres of fruits & vegetables became accustomed to merely placing calls to him when harvesting time came with not so much as a mention of the price expected. While head of the Poteet Chamber of Commerce he helped institute the annual Poteet Strawberry Festival that has since become a regional happening attended annually by thousands. Additionally, he spent much time in the Rio Grande Valley purchasing large shipments of citrus & vegetables for shipment all over the United States. In September of 2000 Paul was inducted into the Texas Produce Hall of Fame located in McAllen, TX. At the time of passing he was still active servicing his many large clients. He is survived by his wife Catherine; daughters, Sandra Fewell, Paula Yarosh; sister, Rosalie Allsup; brother, Leon Hooge; grand-daughters, Nicole Fewell Nelson, Michelle Wessel; & great grandson, Miles Nelson.

WE HAVE LOST ANOTHER OF THE BEST !

MAJOR RALPH SMITH, USAF RET—made his final flite to Eagle's Nest 7-23-08. Small in stature 'Smitty' had fought a gigantic health battle for an extended period of time. In recent months this struggle had been complicated when he suffered a severe stroke. His daughter reported, "He had been recovering nicely from the stroke but was still fragile, so was taken rather suddenly". He will be remembered as the Bombardier on the Swanzy Crew one of the original 17. This was the crew 'scragged' by ME 109s on the 7-12-44 raid on Nimes, France. Hooking up with the French underground he spent a harrowing six weeks evading capture before being returned to allied control and a trip back to the USA. On his return to the states he completed Navigation training at Ellington Field, TX and began a long successful Air Force Career that included tours in Japan in A-26s; a tour in Guam in B-29S and later with a Troop Carrier Squadron hauling passengers & cargo; followed by participation in the Berlin airlift; service with the 97th Bomb Wing in El Paso; next came duty flying with a Strategic support Squadron supporting SAC missions ranging as far west as Japan & as far east as England, Spain & Africa; next duty in St Johns, Newfoundland with a Air Transport Squadron; followed by duty at Davis Monthan where he commanded an Airways & Communications Squadron; retiring as CO of an AACS Squadron at Edwards AFB Flight Test Center providing support for the X-15 program—ending one helluva flying career. Having married the love of his life Kathryn he returned to his beloved Maine ultimately retiring as Corporate Trust Supervisor with a large Bank in Portland, ME. Many reunion attendees will recall his serving the Association as President from 1993-95 and a long time Board member. He is survived by his wife, Kathryn; daughter Peggy Friar (Glenn); son, Bernard Smith (Debbie) and grandchildren Melisse & Jessie Smith.

HAVE LOST ANOTHER OF THE BEST !

MARGARET ' PEGGY' McCLOSKEY-following a long and extended health battle Peg went to join her Jim, March 24, 2008. So many members of the Association owed Jim a big thanks for his detective work in locating them. Similar thanks were owed Peg for her tireless efforts and support in Squadron Association efforts. With Jim working in down town Pittsburg Peg would make him a lunch daily and during his lunch hour he would go to the telephone company and dig thru their directory library for the addresses & phone numbers of the Lost Souls. On his return home in the evenings following dinner he would spend hours calling and tracking the objects of his search while Peg set patiently by offering encouragement. At reunions Peg would spend hours planning, purchasing supplies and once again spend hours upon hours keeping the hospitality room open serving the members. Later when Jim served as President of the Association Peg would handle many efforts in his behalf. Once the children were in school she became a School Crossing Guard for some 23 years diligently insuring to the safety of the children on their daily arrivals & departures. She is survived by sons, Colonel William McCloskey USA Ret (Celeste), Daniel McCloskey (Debbie); daughters, Barbara Schoedel, Diane Strang ; grandchildren, Erika, Danielle, Hannah, Rebecca, Marsha, Rhonda, Susy, Katie & Patrick; great grandchildren, Braydon, Madisyn, Dominic, Avery, Ella, Sophia & Fiona.

WE HAVE LOST ANOTHE VERY SPECIAL LADY

IN A DEMOCRACY YOU SHOULD RECEIVE ONLY WHAT YOU PAY FOR

At the Charleston Reunion during the business meeting it was agreed by all in attendance the LOG would be written and mailed to Gary Forsberg, who volunteered to handle the printing, apply the address labels to be supplied him by Tom Tennille and the subsequent mailing. The 'Village Idiot' should comprehend with the volunteers living cross county break downs in the procedure would occur sooner or later. As expected a series of 'catsastroophys' occurred delaying this procedure for the June 2008 LOG. Each of you complainants viewed the storm damage to Tom's home that left his world upside down delaying the labels being mailed; unfortunately Gary was traveling on their arrival; the Reunion Chairman pleaded her mail man had failed to place her mail in the mail box and consequently the request for her reunion planning got ruined by the rain delaying her response further delaying mailing of the LOG. The above volunteers are not the United States Congressman you elected who takes monies from the productive and sends it to the unproductive as a so called economic stimulus in reality a 'hand out' to buy your favor. These volunteers are donating their time and efforts. Stop your complaining and pay attention to the following. Most of all remember--the majority of those voting for Buffalo at the Charleston knew full well it was located at the furthest point in the USA--and--historically has been a well publicized 'tourist trap' extracting high prices. Regardless, the majority rules.

On page 5 of your June 2008 LOG read: "IMPORTANT NOTICE & REQUEST ; ADVISE BY MAIL AS EARLY AS POSSIBLE WHETHER YOU & GUESTS WILL BE ATTENDING REUNION! YOU MAY SEND PAYMENT LATER". Any person passing the reading portion of a driver license test should comprehend he or she could respond regardless of the decision date.**AND--IT IS NOT TOO LATE--DO SO TODAY ! Mail or call your Treasurer :**

NANCY YOUNG; 3802 FAIRHAVEN, MIDLAND TX 79707, 432-697-2395

At every reunion the Kulczyk family have attended as the largest family unit. Likewise, at each they have lobbied for Buffalo as the next reunion site. In as much as the Americans are willing to vote for 'promises' the majority voted for Buffalo. With the majority ruling get off your behinds and respond. THE ALIBI--IT IS TOO LATE WILL NOT FLY. THERE IS AMPLE TIME REMAINING BEFORE NOW AND OCT 5.

ALL ABOARD!!



MAKE YOUR RESERVATIONS FOR BUFFALO

OCT 5-8

ENJOY A SECOND HONEYMOON

**HURRY!
HURRY!
HURRY!**



SHUFFEL OFF TO BUFFALO

Pack your bags, load your camera and shuffle off to the Buffalo Re-Union. October is one of our finest months to visit. The weather is great. There is so much to do! The largest mall in the area is just steps from the hotel. Toronto is just 2 hours away.

The beautiful falls is a 30 minute drive from the hotel. Take a jet boat ride through some of the most dangerous rapids in the world. Visit our nationally acclaimed Albright-Knox Art Gallery with some of the most famous original master painters in the world. Or for the more modern, see Andy Warhol's famous paintings. Bring your clubs – we have many beautiful golf courses to take advantage of that are just minutes from the centrally located hotel. For the sports buff – take in a Buffalo Bills football game at Ralph Wilson Stadium - one of the largest stadiums in the league. Catch a Buffalo Sabers hockey game. A beautiful 45 minute drive takes you to the Grand Canyon of the east, the beautiful Letchworth State Park with its beautiful gorges and scenery and fall foliage that is unsurpassed!

A 20 minute drive will take you to the 15th Century Lady of Victory Basilica in Lackawanna. This church was built in Renaissance-style, featuring French Baroque interior. Msgr. Nelson Baker "Father Baker" who was the "the Padre of the Poor" helped build the infamous orphanage and hospital that housed unwanted children and unwed mothers in the early 20th century. He is up for beatification by the pope for the many miracles that have occurred thru his name.

For the architectural buffs, we have the Darwin Martin House located in the city of Buffalo and built by the renowned Frank Lloyd Wright in his famous prairie style. Then wander down to the foot of Main Street and take in the site of the Erie Canal - dug by hand - the waterway was Buffalo's seaway to the world. Extending from Buffalo New York to the Hudson River, this was an engineering marvel when it was built; some called it the Eight Wonder of the World.

And when all is said and done, relax at one of the many 5 star restaurants that are located in all the surrounding areas of the city and suburbs.

Karen Kulczyk Wnek
Reunion Chair Person



NEW PADDY WAGON AWAITED 783RD ARRIVAL

A new 'Polizia Paddy Wagon' was parked for our benefit in Florence when we stepped off the tour bus. An explanation from the group of Police greeting the tour bus left us shocked and slack jawed. News of our intended visit had been misconstrued with them thinking the entire 783rd was returning. Such news had made the town Council rush out & purchase a new *polizia wagon* knowing with the arrival of the Quid Fit Gang they would have much need based on the 783rds past history and reputation even after 64 years. There is no doubt in our government issued mind had Paul Smith, Vernon Leggett, Charlie Payne and a few others been present-the *polizia wagon* would have been reported stolen before sundown--temptation would have simply been much too great!

64 YEARS LATER

After landing in Venice, Italy and boarding the cruise liner Emerald Princess the next 3 weeks were spent touring Venice, Athens, Kusadasi, Ephesus, Istanbul, Mykanos, Naples, Capri, Sorrento, Pompeii, Citavecchia, Rome, Livorno, Florence, Tuscany, Marseille, Avignon & Barcelona. On our earlier visit much of the various areas had only been seen from 20,000'. On the ground revealed surprising development progress. Having arrived & departed from Naples on our earlier visit this time we hardly recognized it as being the same. The port was thriving industrially enlarged tremendously & clear of the many sunken ships. Where Naples ended and Sorrento began could not be determined continuing on much further south. Both tremendous industrial as well as residential development was witnessed at all areas from Istanbul on the east and in all areas back around to Barcelona on the west. At each and every stop traffic was bumper to bumper even though the price of gasoline sold by the liter when converted to a per gallon price ranged from \$7 the cheapest to \$11/gal. Contrary to what the products of the American Educational System--the news media report--employment is high; wages long ago adjusted to high energy prices; the majority of families enjoying 2 autos; with their stores carrying the same quality

goods although much higher priced. Example- the lowest price paid for a diet coke off the ship was \$3.5 Euros-converted to USA \$5.46. The ladies latest dressing fad for both old & young--slim or fat--is slim legged blue jeans beginning at \$195 Euros. On disembarking during our stay in Barcelona an inside room with twin beds & no window so small I sat one of the beds & Lynda set on the only chair beside the door at the Majestic Hotel--you would not believe the exorbitant price. Yet, it was full with the desk turning away travelers.

In Italy as an experiment at each and every town traveled we offered the American dollar for a purchase. Thanks to each and every American voting for our two bit Congress Persons the American dollar was refused--Euros only. At the banks you experienced a discounted price from the posted exchange rate--proving again the loss of value for the American dollar once so valued and respected. The same applied for Greece, Turkey & France. For this situation each & every American voter must accept his or her responsibility.

LATE NEWS JUST RECEIVED

ALBERT LEWIS - passed away in Poltney, NH 7-13-08 at age 88. Albert was part of the Instrument group that worked with the gang down on the line doing such an outstanding job. Not only was he one of the original members that rode the Walter Ranger to Oran he was one of the first to become a life time member of the Association. Following his service days he worked as an Electronic Technician retiring after 47 years with North American Phillips manufacturing TVs. He is survived by his widow Beatrice and a daughter Jo Lene Lewis (James).

WE HAVE LOST ANOTHER OF THE BEST

SAGA OF IRENE & DEL FORSBERG'S CONTINUING HEALTH PROBLEMS

Irene, the Queen of Lady Golf Hustlers advised she is daily climbing back in her recuperation from one of the severest operations performed. And-- is enjoying her return home greatly. Although she pines for her Del who is confined to an Assisted Living Facility spending his days in a wheel chair while receiving excellent health care. She sadly reported he is slowly slipping down hill on the slippery slope of life. Their absence at Buffalo will leave a large void.

HANG IN THERE 'OLE FRIENDS' !

LIFE CAN BE SO FRAGILE & SHORT

DR GARY FORSBERG—the August 17, 2008 Sierra Vista, AZ Herald Review reported, "a local doctor died Friday night after suffering a gunshot wound, according to city police. Dr Gary Forsberg, 61, a radiologist at the Sierra Vista Regional Health Center, was shot when he and his wife, Beverly Forsberg, whose age was not released by police, were handling a gun in their Sierra Vista home about 9:50 p.m., police reported on Saturday. Forsberg's wife called authorities for help, and Sierra Vista Fire Department Medics responded. Forsberg was taken to the hospital, where he was pronounced dead. Police had no further details of the incident available on Saturday. The department said its Special Operation Bureau is conducting the investigation and served a search warrant at the couple's home in an effort to examine potential evidence. Once the investigation is complete, the case will be forwarded to the Cochise County Attorney's Office, police said. Forsberg had been active in local Republican Party activities, said Gail Griffin, chairwoman of the Cochise County Republican Party. It is a great loss, she said after hearing the news of his death on Saturday. He attended many functions and was a great supporter. In January, Forsberg was one of the cooks in the "Men Who Cook" fund raiser for the Sierra Vista Symphony Orchestra "end of quote.

Gary will be remembered as the son of our Dell & Irene Forsberg. On attending our Tucson Reunion he immediately became vaccinated with the Quid Fit spirit joining & becoming a dues paying member of our Association. At the Charleston Reunion he was in attendance giving his father a hand who was by then dependent on a wheel chair. He was noted spending hours in front of the DVD player viewing the various discs Bob Wills had made while asking many questions. At the Business meeting he volunteered for the newsletter when written be mailed to him and he would see to the printing, placing the address labels & postage and mailing—doing an outstanding service. He religiously kept the writer posted on Irene's progress throughout her recent extensive surgery. Likewise, he forwarded all current news of his father having to be placed in an Assisted Living Facility. Only recently he had journeyed from Arizona to Florida for a visit with his father who has been gradually slipping down the slippery slope of life. On behalf of all the members of the 783rd bomb Squadron and personally we take this opportunity to extend our sincere sympathy & condolences to Del & Irene; his surviving brothers Lyle & Mark; and all the members of the Forsberg family. **WE HAVE LOST ANOTHER IRREPLACEABLE VALUED MEMBER & ASSET !**

The family requests should any recipient visit or in any way make contact with Del please respect & consider his health condition & refrain from making him aware of any of the above information !

ADIOS !

My daughter, Lynda Taylor & niece, Denise Johnston whom many of you know from reunions can verify your writer has emphasized to them there are two very important actions one must take in life after one passes the 80 mark—**ACCEPTANCE** and **IMMEDIATE CORRECTIVE ACTION**. When we begin the big slide down the game of life 'accepting & taking corrective action' to preserve the remaining time left is a must. Beginning with that day in 1943 when we reported to then Captain Burt Andrus began a most memorable journey with the greatest collection of characters one ever had the good fortune to experience. Upon completing our missions & departing the Squadron in August 1944 it was assumed that was the end of a great association.. How wrong such thoughts were.

In 1983 when we got the call to rally at Colorado Springs we never dreamed before our arrival on departing we would be engaged in rounding up all who had served. And—what a job Jim McCloskey our 'Ole Radio Operator—Gunner' accomplished searching & locating the nucleus

Don Kay had not located. It was Doc Kimball that insisted a newsletter be commenced immediately insisting the quality would govern the success of the Association. Always a gentleman when it appeared under the title **LATRINE O GRAM** initially he wasn't happy with the selected name. Later after the Squadron had been reassembled he was to voice his acceptance & approval. The leadership of Colonel Andrus, Doc Kimball, Paul Smith—the wise old politician, John Knaus, Monty Montgomery, Stan Pace, Bob Wills, Bill Powell, John Walker, Jim McCloskey, Charley Payne including all of you other rascals that pitched in with a helping hand since 1983 including the help & support of the many wives & children can take pride in contributing to the Association becoming an organization often imitated but never duplicated. Your writer's down hill slide has now come to face a steeper slope. The Buffalo Reunion will afford a Business Meeting. Thus, the time has arrived to practice what we have preached by being replaced. It has been one helluva trip few ever had the good fortune to make. Thanks for allowing us the privilege to have been a part. The time has arrived to.....say



**ADIOS,
OLE F/O**

783 BOMB SQUADRON ASSOCIATION

SAM MARIE

13306 LOBELIA

SAN ANTONIO, TX 78232

(RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED)

783rd 2008
REUNION
Buffalo, NY
OCT 5-8
YOU STILL HAVE TIME
MAKE RESERVATIONS !
TODAY !

REPORT ADDRESS & PHONE CHANGES TO

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

ADDRESS CORRECTIONS & ADDITIONS

Isodore Gerstner 515 E. 5th St Apt 302; Sparks Tower; Goodland, KS 67735

AREA CODE CHANGES

PHONE CHANGES CORRECTIONS & ADDITIONS

Isodore Gerstner 785-890-5848

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