

## The Crow Flight

Eighth newsletter of the 47th and 48th Bomb Squadrons, 41st Bomb Group (M) issued April 5, 1999

### **REUNION MEETING, JAN 26, 1999**

Attendees at this meeting included from the 41<sup>st</sup>, Murray Bywater, from the 47<sup>th</sup>, Polly and Kem Sitterley, 48<sup>th</sup> Helen and Paul Hopson, Esther and Keith Galyean, and Dick Monzingo, 396<sup>th</sup> LaVerne and Keith Ingstad, and Walt Winner, and from the 820<sup>th</sup>, Skip Thrune. Dorothy and Don Haskell could not make it because a horrible storm had the grapevine closed (for those not familiar with the local terminology, the grapevine is the mountain freeway connecting the San Joaquin Valley with the San Fernando Valley and Los Angeles area.).

Much of the meeting centered around the program... and with so much of that, it seemed that Murray Bywater had more contacts and knowledge of these items that anyone else, so we just sort of asked Murray to take over almost all of the research.

MAIN SPEAKER... Murray has written a letter to General Kross, former commanding general of the 15<sup>th</sup> Air Force, asking him to talk on the US Air Forces of today and how it contrasts with the Army Air Corps that we knew while the 41<sup>st</sup> Bomb Group was activated.

COMEDIAN MONOLOGUE.... We wondered if Tony Romano might be available?... remember Bob Hope's old guitar player? Tony talked for about ten minutes at the dedication of the 41st Bomb Group Memorial Dedication at March Air Force Base Museum... and he was a really funny guy... mostly telling true life stories about the USO tours with Bob Hope. We also asked, "Would it be agreeable with everyone to dedicate this reunion to Bob Hope? ... and if so we would surely invite him, however we understand that at 95 he is probably not physically fit enough to attend.

TOM BROKAW? ... Murray commented that his boss... that's wife Frankie... suggested this one. As

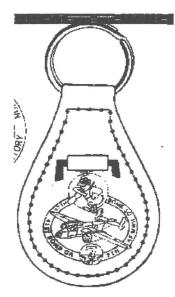
many of you know, Brokaw has written a best seller, "THE GREATEST GENERATION," a book about us and how modest and great and unselfish we all are. It has also been reported that he is in the process of writing another book about our generation in the Pacific. Murray has also written him inviting him and suggesting that this would be a good place for him to get some interviews with veterans that had served in the Pacific. THAT'S US! Murray has written that letter... we'll see!

**TOURS** – The Getty Tour according to everyone we've talked with and the post card response continues to be the main attraction, so we anticipate that there will be a bus load going there both Saturday and Sunday. The second tour one day would be to Universal, and the second tour the other day is still being debated. Surely there will be a stop at the March Air Force Museum where the 41st Bomb Group Memorial is located. The second stop that day could be either at the Palm Springs Air Museum located at the Palm Springs Airport or at the Chino Air Museum at Chino Airport. Probably the deciding factor here is the pricing and convenience of the B-25 rides. We have a list of six different local outfits that have flying B-25's, and Walt Winner is doing the research on this.

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FAVORS - We have decided on a cloisonne image mounted on a leather key chain fob. The image is 11/4 inches high. It has a little round squadron insignia on the top with the main area having a B-25 in olive drab against a white background. There is a small 7th Air Force logo at the bottom. There is a perimeter band which reads, "47th (or 48th or 396th or 820th) Bomb Sq., 41st Bomb Group, 7th Air Force, WWII." The drawing here is a very poor illustration -- trying to put one drawing on top of another in black and white. Hopefully in the next newsletter, we'll have

one for you in color a scanner image of the real thing.

**POST CARD RESPONSE** – ...very poor– only 9% – 30 replies, 14 no. 16 yes, 5 death notices, several citing health reasons, 13 for the Getty Tour, 12 for the air museum tour, 3 for a B-25 ride, 5 for the Universal Tour, and 2 for golf. The committee is projecting 70 veterans, 60 wives with several more for the banquet only including family and friends.



48th correspondents are John Helmer, 2122 S. W. Vista Av., PORTLAND, OR 97201. (503) 222-4614, and Jess (Ray) Ramaker, 17217 N. E. 7th Pl, BELLEVUE, WA 98008-4134 (425)

747-2306 e-mail ramajess@aol.com



At the planning committee meeting, January 26, 1999 Standing left to right, Murray Bywater (41st), Walt Winner (396th), Kem Sitterley (47th), Keith Ingstad (396th)... seated clockwise around the table from left, Dick Monzingo (48th), Felix Galyean (48th), Esther Galyean, LaVerne Ingstad, Polly Sitterley, and Joyce Haddock (with Walt)

In Memoriam (From the post cards)

VASSAR H. MCCONNELL (48<sup>TH</sup>) – "I'm sorry to inform you that Vassar died of a massive stroke May 24." Signed Roselyn McConnell.

"CHARLES T. BURTON passed away Sept. 20, 1998. He always enjoyed the Newsletters." Note on the post card was unsigned. Charles was with the 48th.

"ROBERT KAUFMAN died Feb. 15, '98..." This note on the post card was also unsigned. Robert was with the 48th

JOHN P. CHRISTOPER 47th) – "I would love to come in honor of my deceased husband but it is too far. Give my regards to Don and Dorothy Haskell." Signed, Lucille F. Christopher.

RICHARD HOLLIDAY (47th) - "...Richard dec'd 1-16-98 .... Although we only got to attend reunions in the beginning, Hap enjoyed seeing his old buddies.... I would like to continue receiving newsletters, and need to know my financial obligation" Signed Bobbie Holliday.



### The Crow Flight No. 8 - Gutts Report, Money Problems, In Memoriam . Page 3

GUTTS' LETTER SAYS.... "Quite simply, right now, we're spending more than we're taking in." based mostly on this letter here's some of the things discussed amongst George Tolbert, Urban Gutting, Don Haskell and your editor....

- Our overall response has been disappointing. Probably less than 10% have remitted their 1999 dues... less than 40% their 1998 dues. And when you consider that a couple have sent \$100 a few \$50 and many \$20, it makes it look even worse. If everyone would just send in their \$10 per year we'd be in great shape.
- 2. The newsletter is being billed at only the editor's out-of-pocket cost, but Newsletter #7, a 29-pager that included the rosters was billed at \$892.55 to the 47th and \$694.21 to the 48th. The biggest single cost is toner and ink which made up over \$1,000 of the total of \$1,586.76. The other costs of postage (\$323.20), paper, etc. there is very little we can do. We can bring the costs of the black ink and toner down... maybe 40% by using recharged cartridges and maybe getting the black copies done at the local copy shop. The only way to get the color ink cost down is to reduce the number of square inches of color produced.
- A big part of the above cost was the rosters themselves, and we wonder just how important these are to most of you. Could we make these a separate item and send them out only to those who ask for them??? Should we charge, say, another \$10 for them? Don Haskell does a wonderful job of keeping all of the rosters current on the internet... and I think that most of us either have a computer or have kids who have one and could access these rosters at any time. Between the Internet and the updating done through the newsletter, a roster going out to everyone each year would appear to be a good place to cut costs.
- 4. At the reunion in October we will probably have to increase the dues to \$15 or \$20 per year...the 396<sup>th</sup> asks for \$25 per year, but they also produce probably twice as many pages of newsletter as we do. The 820<sup>th</sup> asks for only \$10 per year, but they have a long history of a

tremendous response and have built a treasury of several thousand dollars.

.... and so remember, 47<sup>th</sup> guys, get your '99 dues of \$10 (more if you can spare it) in as soon as possible to URBAN A. GUTTING, 7047 Autumn Chase Drive, San Antonio. Texas 78238. Please make checks payable to Gutts... the bank takes a dim view of checks made out to the Squadron.... and think, too about the matter because we must do something about it at the reunion in Ontario in October. 48<sup>th</sup> guys, mail to John Helmer– see page 8.

Our total balance as of 28 February 99 was \$1,690.69. The good guys since last report are Steve Bonfili, Vincent Barger, Marvin Watts, Nedry Burris, George Tolbert, Urban Gutting, Stephen Gutting, Harry Courser, Kemary Crowder, Buzz Sitterley, and Kem Sitterley..... so all you bad guys out there, get you checks out and become a good ole boy!

In Memoriam

BEN GROBE – According to a telephone conversation with Dorothy, Ben passed away Jan. 7, 1999. In the earlier days of the squadron, Ben was the crew chief for Marvin Watts crew (maybe you remember his being in the picture last newsletter about the Watts crew being shot down and rescued). After Marvin was rotated home, Ben was transferred over to be the crew chief on George Tolbert's B-25. George and Gutts sent a spray of red and white flowers with a blue ribbon and a card which read, "In remembrance of Ben Grobe on behalf of his AAF comrades of the 47th Bombardment Squadron (M) World War II."

WAYNE G. CHAMBERLAIN—"... passed away on July 4, 1998 from multiple Myeloma. He had been ill for 3½ years and the chemotherapy had done too much damage to his heart also." Signed Freda Chamberlain.

Our heartfelt condolences go out to all of the family and friends of these old comrades-in-arms who have gone on before. Some of us can survive the war but none all the illnesses we have in later years...Gen. H. Norman Schwarzkopf was quoted in the NEW YORK TIMES, "War's a profanity, because let's face it, you've got two opposing sides trying to settle their differences by killing as many of each other as they can."

#### Kem Sitterley

From: Urban Gutting <urban@stic.net>

To: Sitterley, Kemble <ksitterley@linkline.com>; Zingery, William <b25mitch@myriad.net>

Cc: Haskell, Donald <dhaskell@mindinfo.com>; Kuttenkuler,, Raymond <ktnklr@aol.com>; Tolbert, George

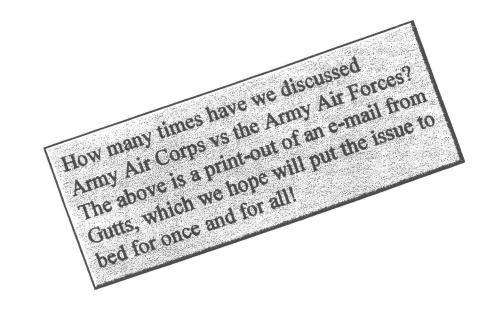
<geosplace@aol.com>
Subject: AAC OR AAF?

Date: Monday, March 08, 1999 11:29 AM

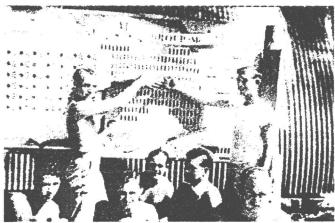
Kem and Zing, Below is clarification of an issue which pops up often and is of direct concern to all of us. I thought that perhaps you might like to include this or your edited version in your next respective news letters. Gutts

From the "Your Views" section of The Retired Officer Magazine", March 1999 issue: (Quote)

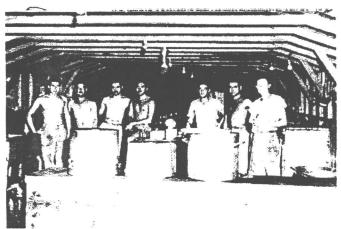
The Last Word I should like to advise TROA that Lt. W Townsend ("Your Views," Dec. '98) is correct with respect to the branch of service in which Jimmy Stewart and the rest of us served in World War II. Although the Army Air Forces was created in 1941, the Army Air Corps did not cease to exist, and in fact, the Forces were a part of the Corps. Col. John B. Devoe, USAF-Ret. Stratham, N.H. Editor's Note: We received many letters on this issue and so checked into it further. We discovered that you are correct, with one exception. According to the Air Force Historical Research Agency, the Army Air Corps became a subordinate element of the Army Air Forces (AAF) on June 20, 1941, when Lt. Gen. Henry H. Amold assumed the title of chief of Army Air Forces. The new AAF was directly under the orders of the chief of staff of the Army, Gen. George C. Marshall. Arnold and Marshall agreed that the AAF would enjoy autonomy within the War Department until the end of the war, when the air arm would become a fully independent service. However, unlike the Army Air Forces, the Army Air Corps was originally established by an act of Congress and could only be disestablished by another statute, which did not take place until 1947. Until then, personnel of the Army Air Forces were officially assigned to the Army Air Corps. We apologize for the confusion. (End Quote)



### TWO SNAPSHOTS FROM MAKIN COURTESY WILMER L. DEITRICK



Bulletin board listing missions of the different squadrons, Harold Johnson, left, and Corporal Spells



Mess Hall... left to right, Wilmer L. Dietrick, D. Cunningham (from Texas), Harold Johnson, ? From Sunbury, PA, Corporal Spells, Harold Kasten, and Simmons (can't remember first name)

PROFILES—Please remember that our newsletter is only as successful as you yourself make it. We really enjoy getting your mail and, in turn, getting it into the newsletter. Again we have provided another profile form at the end of this letter for your convenience.

LESS COLOR?— Yup.. Budget constraints... just in case you're wondering why there's less color in the newsletter now than there was. The cost of that bloomin' color ink is just plumb outrageous!

#### TRIALS, TRIBULATIONS AND ILLNESSES

...and our mail is full of the many illnesses and disabilities that many seem to have... and I guess it's that time of our lives..."...in the rest home with Alzheimer's and cannot respond to your newsletter"... "the pain in my knees is so bad, I cannot walk or stand."... "massive stroke"... "Massive heart attack".... "there's nothing more that we can do to help except to adjust your medication!" ... and on an on. We do want you to know that we send our love and best wishes and very great admiration for the courage with which you face these troubles! ... and we surely understand that many do not want the exact nature of their problems published... and we do our best to observe those wishes.



....in Colorado Springs, this promises to be loads of fun.... set in the Rocky Mountains.... U.S. Air Force Academy "Band of the Rockies," etc. For details contact Dorothy Pracko, 9121 E. Eastman Ave., DENVER, CO 80231 (303). A reminder here that the elevation of Colorado Springs is 5,980', and I know of several people (including your editor's wife) who cannot take that altitude. Carl Mortitz, 48th pilot who attended a fighter group reunion in Denver a few years ago, tells the story of five couples that, simply because of altitude sickness, turned around and went home within a few hours after they hit the hotel... and the altitude in Denver is 700' less at 5,280'.. ennyway, go if you can, the 820th always puts on a good show.



 $396^{th} \; ... \; \text{has a really great newsletter},$ 

producing about twice as many pages per

year as we do. Bill Zingery publishes and edits... and will be happy to put you on the mailing list (will I catch hell for this?). Their dues are \$25 per year (the 396th always was an expensive outfit!), but it's worth it, and I very highly recommend it! You'll really find a lot of stuff here you'll enjoy. Contact Bill at P. O. Box 5930, COLLEGE STATION, TX 77844... (409) 694-9584...e-mail b25mitch.myriad.net.

### JAPS DOWN NESPELEM PILOT'S "VICIOUS VIRGIN"

First Lt D. G. Moore, United States army, of Chicago, Ill., went along on the bombing raid for the ride, never dreaming he and his copassengers would wind up in the drink. His Mitchell medium bomber hadn't been scheduled for the strike against Nauru island, so he accepted the invitation of 1st Lt. L. A. Gray, United States army, of the "Vicious Virgin 2d" will attest has developed by the navy and coast of the "Vicious Virgin 2d" will attest has of the "Vicious Virgin 2d" will attest, has of the "Vicious Virgin 2d" before a happy minimum.

In the picture are members of the "Vicious Virgin 2d" before a happy minimum.

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In the picture are members of the

G. Moore, Chicago, Ill., copilot: 1st Lt. F. D. Boerngen, Canton, Ohio, bombardier-navigator.
Kneeling, left to right: T/Sgt. J. A. Hashier, Mount Pleasant, Pa., radioman and waist gunner: S/Sgt. J. S. Richman, Monroe, La., engineer and tail gunner; S/Sgt. J. C. Sullivan, San Antonio, Texas, turret gunner.

ret gunner.
Members of the PBY navy Dunibo rescue plane, are:

man W. Sinclair, U. S. N. R., Long Beach, Calif., pilot; Ens. Robert J. Wright, U. S. N. R., Scattle, Wash., copilot; Ens. Robert W. Reber, U. S. N. R., Petoskey, Mich., navi-gator.

Jones, aviation machinist's mate second class, U.S.-N. R., Jacksboro, Texas, plane captain; Clifford C. Hill Jr. aviation radioman, second class, U.S. N. R., Nashville, Tenn. radioman; Harold P. Moore aviation machinist's mate, second class, U.S. N., general delivery, Arbuckle, Calif., aviation mechanic; Seymour S. Bader, aviation radioman, third class, U.S. N. R., New York, N. Y., radioman; Thomas C. Edwards, aviation ordnanceman, second class, U.S. N. R., Copan, Okla., bombardier; Charles E. Deyhle, aviation; condinanceman, second class, U.S. N. R., route 3, Honey Grove, Texas, ordnanceman.



"Vicious Virgin 2nd" Crew Rescued After Japs Made Bullseye.

Our thanks for this clipping goes to George Tolbert who forwarded it to us after having received it from Joseph Hashier

### 41st BOMB GROUP MEMORIAL

In the year 1998, nearly fifty three years had passed away since the 41<sup>st</sup> Bomb Group was deactivated. Many of its members have joined together in comaradarie through the years in reunions and correspondence one with another. For many years a Group Memorial was envisioned and it came to fruition on March 28, 1998 when this edifice was dedicated. Six members representing each organizational element of the Group came from over the land to participate in its dedication. They were Wayne Hanson, Curt Oaks, Gene Olsen, Glenn Penner, Kem Sitterley and Maurice Smith. Tony Romano, who was with the Bob Hope Troupe during the war, was also present and represented Bob Hope who was enshrined in the Memorial. Murray Bywater, the Group Commander, read the dedicatory prayer.

We acknowledge with gratitude those who contributed to make this Memorial possible:

Group Headquarters 47<sup>th</sup> Bomb Squadron 48<sup>th</sup> Bomb Squadron 396<sup>th</sup> Bomb Squadron 820<sup>th</sup> Bomb Squadron

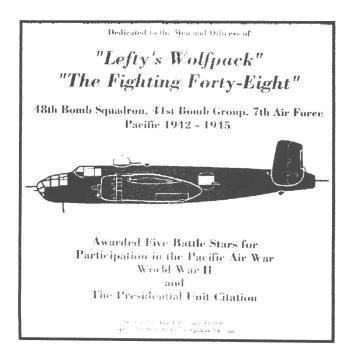
Jack R. Audiss Vincent J. Barger **Lester M. Berry** Murray A. Bywater **Betty Esau Cabe** William W. Childs Frank Ciarochi Robert C. Cole Leonard C. Donnelly Charles G. Esau, Jr. Marie Esau Ted Esau Norman Geril Richard Giachino **Urban A. Gutting** Wavne A. Hanson **Donald Haskell** John Helmer

**Abert Hettiq Edward S. Kavecki** F. Warren Lovell **Curt Oaks** Gene Olsen Glenn E. Penner William K. Pfingst **Jerome Prazak** Edward J. Ralbovsky **Reginald Shinn** Kemble U. Sitterlev Maurice E. Smith Tom W. Smith Wavne G. Steineder George T. Tolbert **Gerdice B. Tykeson** Russell W. Tykeson Suzanne Esau Wilson

**Bill Zingery** 



### TOM J. CARSON PRESENTS PLAQUE TO ADMIRAL NIMITZ MUSEUM



The two lines at the bottom read, "Presented by Tom J. Carson 0-445998; Captain, US Army Air Corps, Squadron Adjutant." ... and I quote from Tom's letter, "Am enclosing a photograph of a metal plaque that was placed on the Memorial Victory Wall at the Admiral Nimitz Museum of the Pacific War at Fredricksburg, Texas in October, 1998." Our thanks go to Tom for this really nice gesture for the 48th.

CHARLES COFFMAN—...sends a note along with three years dues... "After spending almost two and a half years with the 48th I still missed out going to the Pacific. Ending up in England on B-17's. Even after finishing my tour of missions, taking a British war bride (54 years together) I can truthfully say what an experience. But I still think of the 48th as home....Nearing eighty years young I work four and sometimes five eight-hour shifts a week at one of the casinos in Laughlin NV. I keep busy so please excuse me for being so late. Will do better in the future. Always great to receive the News letter." ... signed "Charley."... and thank

### Memo from John Helmer.....

Be sure to block off your calendar for October 8<sup>th</sup> thru 11<sup>th</sup> for the big reunion with the 47<sup>th</sup> and 396<sup>th</sup> in Ontario, CA in Oct. 1999.

Thanks go to Kem and all of his committee who are working hard on the plans. Our last mailing charge for the 48th Sq. Newsletter was \$694.21. The charge for this newsletter is expected to be much less because of fewer pages.

Our bank balance of April 1, 1999 was \$692.94. The kitty is getting low. Please help us to be solvent by sending in your \$10.00 dues for 1999 (more if you can spare it). Please make out your checks to John Helmer and mail to 2122 S. W. Vista Avenue, PORTLAND, OR 97201. Thank you. We want to be able to keep the newsletters coming.

We have received monies from the following people since our last newsletter: Homer Sleasman, John Sacco, Charles Coffman, William Chilson, Lynn Sweetland, Harold Bryan, Alexander Bonchuk, Fred Deutsch, and Michael Haddock.

you for your letter to us, Charley! It's these kind of notes that make the newsletter more fun for everyone!

MICHAEL HADDOCK— and another note along with his dues, "...I was a radio operator and gunner on Fred Emmerts Crew. Our first plane was called, "STINKY" and it already had scores of bombing missions on its nose when we got it along with a 75 millimeter cannon.. Keep sending THE CROW FLIGHT...Speaking reunions, has anyone ever thought of having a cruise? Somebody brought it up in Las Vegas once but that's the last I heard of it...keep up the good work, John."

**DONALD ROSSBACH**— ...has a new address, 1150 Sugar Road SE, RIO RANCHO, NM 87124. Also, I regret to report, that on his last physical, his doctor told him that he had bone cancer.... and so he plans to get that licked and then he'll see us all at the reunion in Ontario, Oct 8-11, 1999!

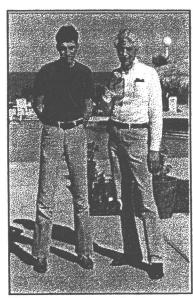


LEE DEUTSCH (WIFE OF FRED) SENDS IN TWO PHOTOS... The captions are quotes from her letter...



You asked for "perhaps with a Hot Island Babe,"... so here is a photo of my husband with one of his girls... Pat 12/2/44

....dunno, Fred... where was Lee when this was taken... is Pat really that sleepy?... Or is she just bored to death?



Fred Deutsch with his son, Richard Lee Deutsch



JOHN GEIDEL -B-24 instructor pilot to end of war... ran own business to 1948... recalled, flew Berlin Air Lift '48 and '49... then 1st Guided Missile Sq., Eglin AFB to 1950... Continued business... recalled 1952... Wing Flight Safety Officer Shepard AFB on to McConnell AFB for B-52 Instructor course... retired Lt. Col 1975.... then worked for NASA as a Quality Assurance Engineer. Two daughters, Celeste Cleveland and Paula Bleecher...two grandchildren, Justin and Jessica... Right now and in the future continuing to enjoy relaxed life at home in Northern Wisconsin



JAMES HEGG-...has a new address, The Methodist Manor, Unit 94, 2100 Twin Church Rd., Florence, SC 29501... and phone number (843) 292-0234. James stayed in the service mostly as a crew chief, retiring Aug. 1, 1969. His wife, Sadie, died July 3, 1998, after which he moved to a "retirement facility, enjoying new people and activities,

including looking forward to THE CROW FLIGHT." His hobbies have included traveling and flower gardening. He had one daughter, Fran Bellamy, 2 grandchildren and 5 great grandchildren.



James sent in this picture but cannot remember where he got it... Does anyone else remember it? The text reads, "PIN-UP GIRL FOR THE RECKLESS DRIVER"

# Send us your information below for use in "The Crow Flight" $47^{th} \ and \ 48^{th} \ Alumni-50\text{-some years later}$

NAME	CALLING NAME:	OLD PHOTO
	SPOUSE:	PERHAPS IN THE UNIFORM YOU WORE
		PERHAPS WITH A HOT ISLAND BABE!!!
Chirones		
CHILDREN:		
GRANDCHILDREN:(numbe	er)	
OCCUPATION:		
		NEW PHOTO
LIFE SINCE 47 <sup>TH</sup> AND 48 <sup>TF</sup>	1	PERHAPS WITH WIFE, KIDS AND GRANDKIDS
		one men
		•
CONTACT WITH 47 <sup>TH</sup> AND	O 48 <sup>TH</sup> PEOPLE:	•
ANYTHING ELSE OF INTE	EREST "THE CROW FLIGHT" READ	ERS?
USE A SEPARATED PIECE	OF PAPER IF NECESSARY!	
Send to: The Crow Flig	ght, % Kem Sitterley, 20449 B	lue Mountain Drive, Walnut, CA 91789