



The Crow Flight



Twenty-second newsletter of the 47th and 48th Bombardment Squadrons, 41st Bombardment Group (M) 7th AF, WWII issued November 2002

LET THE GOOD TIMES ROLL

BILOXI, MS: Last year in Manchester, NH it was the terrorists; this year in Biloxi, MS it was Hurricane Isidore: Neither was able to daunt the spirit of our reunion attendees. We came for camaraderie and good times and we had just that.

OH, YES! AND ROMANCE.



BEV WILLIAMS-HER SQUEEZE GEORGE TOLBERT
FRANCIS LISAK Smiles his approval. All 47TH

AND MORE SMILES



I'M SHOCKED! ENID ANDERSON, 820TH A TWO
FISTED DRINKER? PERHAPS ENID WAS JUST
GETTING ONE FOR VIRGINIA KERSHAW. 48TH

AND GLAMOROUS RELAXATION



HELLEN KELLY, 48TH - DORIS SAYER, 47TH
WITH FLAG "THROW"

AND WAR STORIES



EVERETT ROSS (CENTER) DOCUMENTING TO RICK &
MARILYN RONDINELLI HOW HE WON THE WAR

All 47th. It didn't take Everett long to get the hang of things: The first day (Sun.), he went to the casino for lunch and came back \$1000 (less taxes) richer. Heard he won another \$150 in a later session.



Carolyn says, "So what?"

Had to fill this space with something. May need magnifying glass to read it but, at New Orleans cemetery, above my head, is the French version of my first name: "Urbain "

HOSPITALITY: This reunion could aptly be titled, "**The George and Helen Kelly Southern Hospitality Reunion.**" For those of us who arrived a day early, it began with an invite to George and Helen's home Sat. evening for a delicious home cooked Creole style fish chowder dinner. The grateful guests were: Bill & Mildred Chilson and their daughter, Nancy, 48th, Arnold & Doris Sayer, 47th, and us'un (Carolyn & Urb Gutting).



As another act of generous hospitality, Helen kept a supply of her special Creole dishes available every day in the Hospitality Room. Along with an abundant supply of other snacks, no one should have gone

hungry, not even the sea gulls, shown above being fed by Helen from the balcony.

Our Hospitality Room was exactly like the one at Manchester, except that here the two large patio windows overlooked, of course, the tranquil waters of the Gulf of Mexico. Tranquil, that is, until hurricane Isidore paid us a visit; more about Isi later. Once again, our Hospitality Room served as a gathering place for a lot of great camaraderie. Old war buddies, some not seen in over half a century, were reunited, friendships made at prior reunions were further cemented and new friends and acquaintanceships were made.

THE HOTEL: The President Tower Hotel had a mixture of good and bad points. A good complimentary continental breakfast was served each day. For other meals we had to take a shuttle to the casino; however, the food there was very good and we had the 2 for 1 deal. The rooms were spacious and comfortably appointed. Unfortunately, many of the rooms experienced air-conditioning malfunction, pretty much limiting the choice to near freezing or sweating. Some of us had a beautiful view of the gulf but wished we hadn't when the near hurricanes force winds howled and rattled the patio doors and kept us awake all Wed. morning.

THE BANQUET: The Banquet Room décor was a definite step or two up from the usual hotel meeting room. The meal itself, most will agree, was very, very good. The only disappointment, compared to last year, was the lack of an exciting battle engagement with Lebanese wedding terrorists and the ensuing conga line. No doubt, however, that was fine with **Terry Eyer**, who led our successful terrorist counter attack at Manchester. This year, Terry and Doc, 396th, had their own Continental Airlines Terror-tales to tell, which will be related later.

Following welcoming remarks by George Kelly, the banquet ceremonies were appropriately launched with presentation of the Colors by the Biloxi High School

Junior ROTC Honor Guard (Picture Page 3). During the presentation we were led in singing our National Anthem by **Jill Curbo**, lead singer at the church George and Helen Kelly attend. The Colors were then retired and we settled into enjoying our repast.

THE PRIZES: After our scrumptious meal George Kelly began distribution of the attendance prizes. Urb Gutting was scheduled to present the prizes but George didn't announce him. Urb then realized that the fellow listed on the Reunion Banquet Program as "Door Prize---Uban Gutlering" must be he. Knowing that he'd make a lousy door prize, Urb limpidly leapt to the podium in time to once again acknowledge the one-and-only **TERRY EYER as the contributor of not one, as she was last year, but of TWO exquisite ladies necklaces which Terry designed, hand crafted and donated.**

Necklace #1: A beautiful creation of Sterling silver, it was won and presented, very appropriately, to none other than the Beautiful Birthday Girl---**HELEN KELLY!!** Yes, it really was her birthday that day! (Picture Page 3)

Necklace # 2: Exquisitely fashioned of Amber and silver, it was awarded by drawing to **ELLIE TELEGA**, one of our most favorite, most charming and most loyal reunion attendees. (Pictures Page 3) With Ellie at the reunion were husband **BILL**, 47th, and their daughter, **TESSIE**.

4 Wars Memorial Coin Sets: Presented next were two sets of WWI, WWII, Korea & Viet Nam memorial 24 Kt. gold plated coins, each set attractively boxed and with an engraved plaque that read, "Biloxi Reunion 2002." The first set was awarded to **LOU BEISSER**, 396th, just because he is such a nice guy and was doing all that running around gathering name slips for the drawings. Lou is also doing a bang-up job of getting things lined up for the next reunion at Branson, Missouri. The second coin set was won by fair-and-square drawing by **BOBBIE MAC MINN**, wife of **BILL**, 396th. See Page 3 for more comments and picture.

The Flag "Throw": Next item awarded was an inspiring patriotic United States Flag 48" X 67" fringed "throw" jacquard woven in the U.S. from 100% cotton, with lyrics to the song *God Bless America* woven into the fabric. It was truly a pleasure to present this prize to **LOLA WAMPLER**. Lola and her two sons operate a lumber and building supply store that was founded in 1963 by her and her late husband, **AUSTIN**, 47th, in Bastrop, TX. (Picture P 3)

The B-25 Model: Made of mahogany, with a wingspan of about 22" and length 27", this handsome replica required some assembly. (Continued on Page 6.)



Presentation of the Colors and SSgt Jill Curbo in her USAF uniform singing the National Anthem



BOBBIE MAC MINN, spouse of BILL, 396th proudly displays the 4-Wars, 24 Kt. gold layered commemorative coins set won by drawing. Bill & Bobbie are regular reunion attendees, which is great because they really are a fun couple to be around. (My apology for the faulty photography; it hides Bobbie's beautiful blue eyes.)



Here's HELEN KELLY & her birthday present. Hubby GEORGE beams his approval. Helen wrote: Would like to thank Terry for her support of our reunion efforts. She is as lovely as her jewelry. I know by looking at each piece, a part of herself is

invested in it.



LOLA WAMPLER, widow of Austin, 47th, displays her prize with the help of EVERETT ROSS, 47th. Interlopers are: bottom unknown and top, me (Gutts). Lola was a bit apprehensive about attending the reunion alone, but acknowledged that she was glad she came. We sincerely hope to again see Lola at Branson.



Two elegant ladies: ELLIE TELEGA (R) wearing her newfound necklace treasure (the amber one). Presenting it is TERRY EYER, gracious and generous crafter of the treasure. Judging from the hefty weight of her purse at a Tues. casino lunch, Ellie also did quite well at the quarter slots. It must have been Ellie's lucky day.



MARY ZACHOK, wife of THOM, 47th, captured the mahogany B-25 model prize being presented by LOU BEISSER, 396th. Mary & Thom are our champion reunion attendees, having been to all but one. Lou was presented one of the 4-Wars coin sets (Like Bobbie's above).

QUAD-SQUAD. MEETING: A well-attended meeting of all Sqds. in the Hospitality Room on Wed. afternoon began with a short discussion with **Gus Anderson**, the lone Oop representing the 820th Sq., regarding the possibility of "4 Squadron" reunions in the near future. The consensus is that dwindling numbers of our ranks will require this action if we are to continue having reunions. Gus will present the concept for discussion at the 820th's New Orleans reunion in May '03 and report the results at our Branson '03 reunion. (This is my sneaky way to entice Gus & Enid to join us once again. They make most of our reunions and we sure do enjoy their company.)

Lou Beisser, 396th then presented a progress report of his work in setting up the **2003 Reunion** at Branson, MO. And much progress he has made! We want to whet your interest, but **Please Remember**, all this is **Not Set In Concrete** at this time. Lou expects some adjustments will be necessary. In summary: **Sept. 15, 16, 17** (Mon-Tues-Wed) 2003 at the **Welk Resort**, Branson, MO. Total cost **\$427 per person** which will pay for: 3 nights lodging, 3 hot breakfasts, 2 days bus transportation to the shows, Sq. Registration fee, 2 dinners plus our banquet, and **6 shows**, including the two generally highest regarded in Branson, i.e., the Shoji Tabuchi and Yakov Smimoff shows. **PHEW!** Don't know how Lou negotiated all that for \$427 each. For those of you who have never been to Branson, and do attend our reunion there, be prepared for a very special entertainment treat. Stay tuned for further developments. (See Picture P5)

After Lou's presentation, a letter dated Sept.12, '02 from **Kem Sitterley**, 47th was read, in which Kem expressed his sadness because he could not be with us due to some debilitating recent health problems; then he wrote: "Remember that you have to get someone to commit to do the reunion in 2004, and it's the 47th's turn. Oh Hell!...let the 48th do this one...maybe you can railroad **John Helmer** sort of like we did **Lou Beisser...just nail someone**. Maybe we can all go to **George's** house in Bristow. You won't have me to make the motion this time so must find some other partner in crime!.....be assured that I will be with you in spirit in Biloxi." That's all it took. When asked, "How about it, John?" he replied in his usual composed manner, "Yes, I'd be glad to do that. In fact, I've been thinking about it for some time." John expressed minor concern about Portland, OR being "way up in the corner." It was pointed out that Manchester, NH is also "way up in the corner" and that presented no problem in '01, and John agreed to that. So, it appears set that we will be headed to the great and beautiful northwest come 2004. **George Tolbert** will just have to wait until 2005 to have the reunion at his house in Bristow, OK. Got to think ahead for these things.

We then adjourned to separate Sq. meetings. The 47th's meeting consisted of "official" acceptance of the future

reunion proposals and presentation of a Financial Report. That was it.

HURRICANE ISIDORE: The hurricane had no direct effect on the reunion itself, but did cause some airline schedule shuffling and some "hairy" driving conditions, the latter best described in **Art Ferreira's**, 396th, e-mail: After dropping off Ed Feist, 396th at the Gulfport airport for an 0830 Wed. departure, Art headed east on I-10, hoping to keep ahead of the storm. Said Art, "It turned out to be a sort of war time experience with the rain coming down so hard that all I could see was the tail light of a truck ahead of me to navigate by. But by Pensacola visibility improved considerably and I just kept driving until I arrived in Ocala 11 hours later, a little on the exhausted side." Proves Art still has the "right stuff."

Eight of us, John & Beverly Helmer, Bobbie & Bill MacMinn, Arnold & Doris Sayer and Carolyn and I decided to keep our original schedule and stay through Wed. Night. The hotel came through with the usual continental breakfasts but the casino (our food supply) was ordered closed at 1000 Wed. We were the last served for lunch at Denny's and probably would have gone hungry for dinner had not the Kellys come through again with an invite to all eight of us for dinner at their home. So, my account of reunion activities closes as it began, recounting the "Southern Hospitality" bestowed upon us by George and Helen Kelly.

I'm going to take the liberty to extend, on behalf of all of us who attended the Biloxi Reunion, a sincere and heartfelt thanks to GEORGE AND HELEN KELLY for their dedicated hard work and kind hospitality, making this a most enjoyable reunion. The hurricane did add some spice, but with certainty they did not abet in arranging that.

REGRETS: We had **HERB & FRITZIE LOCKE**, 47th all locked up, money in the bank and all, when Herb experienced medical problems. It turned out to be a clogged carotid artery, which has since been successfully operated on. Fritzie says that instead of being a pain in the neck he now has one, but he is healing nicely. Reciprocal best wishes were extended.

Raymond and Arlene Huschle, 48th phoned their regrets at having to cancel their reunion reservation due to medical problems. They also wished us well and we wish them speedy recovery.

Kem Sitterley and daughter Kemary, 47th held off their decision as long as possible, hoping his health would allow them to attend the reunion. It wasn't to be, but in recent phone conversation with Kem he said that with some changes in medication he is feeling some better. Many people have inquired of your welfare, Kem. Want you both to know you were very much missed at the reunion.



LOU BESSIER holding court briefing on the 2003 Reunion in Branson, Mo., over which he will preside. Lou really was a judge. Enthralled listeners are MARIAN TREAKLE & RICK RONDINELLI.



This picture of BILL TELEGA should look familiar. It's not the same pic but the pose is identical to one taken at Manchester. Bill celebrated his 87th birthday this Nov. He credits his good health & longevity to staying busy with his business, working in his garden, daily long walks, lots of TLC from Ellie and a daily nip.



NATHAN MITCHELL, 396th & son MARK. My, they grow them big in MI. Mark is as nice as he is big. Next are BEVERLY & JOHN HELMER, 48th, volunteer hosts for our '04 reunion in their home city of Portland, OR.



ED & PATTI KRIORIAN, 48th. If we had a 'Mr & Mrs Congeniality' award they would have won it. That is really a neat B-25 T-shirt Ed has. Didn't think to ask Ed where he got it, but he'd tell us if anyone is

interested.



It's Meeting time. A few present and accounted for, Sir! DOC EYER, ED FEIST 396TH, HELEN KELLY 48TH, LOU BEISSER 396TH, JOHN HELMER, ED KRIKORIAN 48TH, GEORGE TOLBERT 47TH, NATHAN MITCHELL 396TH AND GUS ANDERSON 820TH.



ARNOLD SAYER, 47th foreground. Behind him DICK STERNBERG, BILL MACMINN, DOC EYER (hidden), ART FERRIERA in center next to LOU BEISSER. HELEN & (I think), GEORGE KELLY standing.



Can't you just hear THOM ZACHOK, 47th back there heaving a sigh of contentment over that cold Bud? Sure hope Mary isn't getting ready to take it away from him. Complementing this relaxing scene are GUS ANDERSON 820th, DORIS SAYER AND EVERETT ROSS, 47th.

Here's EVERETT ROSS with LOLA WAMPLER, 47thers. Make a handsome couple don't they.



MILDRED, DAUGHTER NANCY HANSON & BILL CHILSON Very warm hearted 48th folks. A board of inquiry has exonerated Bill from culpability for the B-25 model crash. (Readers can have fun identifying those in the background.)

(Cont. From P 2) This job was entrusted to Bill Chilson, 48th until he crash-landed it, requiring depot maintenance by Arnold Sayer, 47th to replace an engine and two prop blades. Fortunately, it will never have to fly, only look dignified upon the mantle, or wherever, in **MARY AND THOM ZACHOCK'S**, 47th home. Mary's was the name drawn, making ladies the unanimous winners of our attendance drawings. Guess we will have to have a men-only drawing next time. (Picture Page 3)

The Finale: The banquet festivities were concluded with choruses of laughter induced by the **Cajun Humor of TOMMY JOE BREAUX**. Tommy is a highly regarded comedian, with appearances on national TV and the author of several successful books on Cajun Humor. His only compensation for this performance was from the sale of several tapes he has produced, the proceeds from which he donates to charity. Tommy Joe Breaux frequently performs gratis for military associated groups such as ours, and for this we offer our sincere thanks and gratitude to Tommy Joe.

TERRY & DOC EYER'S CONTINENTAL AIRLINES & OTHER TERRORIST EXPERIENCES:

Begins with a 0300 wake up on Th. 19 Sept. for a 0740 departure from Tucson. Departure delayed until 1300 ...phone Biloxi shuttle & hotel...arrive Houston...after 1.5 hr. wait told there would be a delay...report to Continental Counter, where 30-40 people are lined up ...Terry loses temper, starts pounding on counter & screaming (that usually gets attention!)...told to go to Terminal C...takes 30 minutes...told more delay ...make phone calls...1.5 hrs. later told flight cancelled...back to main counter ...now 2000...no breakfast, lunch or dinner yet ...given hotel voucher...no hand luggage...more phone calls ...finally eat. Fri. 20th. - 1030 flight...45 min. delay ...arrive Gulfport /Biloxi ...get luggage...all damaged (was brand new)...no shuttle waiting...back to phone ...find shuttle ...taken to wrong hotel...back on shuttle to President Tower...dropped off at wrong end ...drag damaged luggage up stairs, around hallways to reception end...get to room & open luggage ...clothes all wet...room freezing...collapse into bed anyway. Sat. 21st - Terry gets on elevator at 5th floor, pushes button for 1st ...elevator goes up to 8th floor & then back down to 1st, but door does not open...push OPEN DOOR repeatedly. "It finally opens to reveal a wall of iron, I have no idea where I am? I try not to panic and push the CLOSE DOOR repeatedly until it ends up by closing and I am praying for this nightmare to end. The elevator starts going up again to the 5th floor and then comes back, just like magic to the first floor. Do you think I'm jinxed or what?" (Ed: Don't go away, there's more!) Wed. 26th - Arrive Gulfport Airport. Flight cancelled; go on standby, might get lucky? Yes, on 1230 flight to Houston, arrive 1400, wait until 2100, find assigned seats occupied, given other seats. "We are going to sleep in our own beds tonight." Ed: We wish you serene travel to Branson.

(Cont. From P 4) **Maurice "Smitty" Smith**, 47th wanted very much to attend Biloxi but couldn't sneak past his doctor. He wrote: "Be assured that I will be with you in spirit in Biloxi. May I remain one of you." Smitty is putting together a chronology of "The Torpedo Squadron." that makes very interesting reading. If anyone has any information regarding torpedo activities, Smitty would like to hear from you. His contact info is in the masthead. Arnold Sayer, who was on Rick Rondinelli's crew when they went through torpedo training, also wrote a chronology similar to Smitty's, and was most eager to collaborate with him. We'll keep you advised on progress toward publication.

47TH SQ. NOTES:

Hospitalization required **John Mahan**, 47th to cancel reservations for the '01 NH reunion. His plans to attend Biloxi were thwarted by continuing health problems. John's wife, **Toni** sent word that John died on 8 Aug. '02.

Notice has been received that **Edwin C. Terry**, 47th passed away Jan. 27, 2002.

Mrs. Josephine J. Kinney advised that her late husband, **Col. George Kinney**, 47th passed away on Aug. 13, 2000.

Regarding **William A. Crandall**, 47th, **La Verne B. Crandall** wrote:...my roommate (husband) died 3 June 2002. Rec'd a letter from the sister of John F. Etherington, LtCol, NYANG Ret. She's seeking info' regarding their duty in the Pacific while they flew "FLACK HAPPY" - their B-25. Jack is trying to put a book together for that early '40s era. We had hoped and talked about trying to get to Biloxi this year. Enclosed is a check for dues which will enable me to "keep up" w / goings on. P.S. Having read the Gollnitz article, I remember Bill talking about having dengue fever and all the low-level bombing from the Gilbert and Marshall Islands, also.

From **Mrs. LeGrand Frei**: "Thanks to Edon Ford & his kindness to me & my children we now have some info on LeGrand's activities in the 47th & the special men he was associated with the 3 years he was gone from my life. I want to send a request & money to receive The Crow Flight. I'm sending (a generous check) if that's OK cause we never had the privilege of supporting it before. Thank you so much. Joey Frei"

Sympathy is extended to all families of our departed 47th Bombardment Squadron members.

Bob Worsnop, 47th wrote they had hoped to make the reunion but that his wife, **Nancy** had some health problems.

Hal Moody, 820th wrote: "Here's my check to help the cause. On page 7 of the Crow Flight (#21) is a photo of my crew chief, **Harold D. Wilson**. He was outstanding in his performance. I never had a problem with my plane 051.

John W. Anderson, 47th: "I have been working on my pictures of the 47th and have enlarged many of them. I also have 19 copies of the 7th AF mag. **Brief**. I now have 4 albums of pictures and newspaper articles. Also have an 8 volume set of books of the AAFs of WWII. They are called "Impact". (John, did you get those copies of NLs 19 & 20?)



Hawaii, 1944



Taken in 2001 (Maybe 49th Wedding Anniversary?)

International Agriculture Economist, specializing in Middle-East affairs. From 1972 to 1975 Charlie was on loan from the Dept. of Agr. to the United Nations Food & Agriculture Organization in Rome, Italy. He retired in 1983 after 37 years service. Over the years, the Treakes have maintained contact with Eileen & Don Lighthall, "Curley" & Irene Williams, George Tolbert and Toni & John Mahan. Ed. Note: What would have been a very nice picture of Charlie & Marian at the Biloxi banquet turned out very blurred & unusable. Thankfully we have this picture to present.

Handsome then, handsome now; Slim then, slim (well, almost) now. The most important event in CHARLIE TREAKLE'S life since WWII was marrying this beautiful lady, MARIAN, in 1952. They have four children, Pamela, Kevin, Kirk and Jim, in turn presenting six grandchildren. Charlie earned a B.S. degree from the U. of Maryland, a B.A. from George Washington U. and a master's degree in economics from American U. Charlie joined the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture. Gaining expertise, he became an



CHAUCEY KERSHAW, (L) 48th. His wife, Virginia is pictured on p.1 with Enid Anderson. Didn't have opportunity to talk much with the Kershaws at Biloxi, but enough to know they are very pleasant folks to have around. They live in Bountiful, Utah, a rather unique name for a city.

FRANK LISAK, JR. (R) surprised us once again by showing up unannounced at Biloxi. A stalwart young man in the image of his father, Frank drove nonstop from Washington D.C. to be with his dad and us. Among other talents, he is an expert photographer and we hope to share, sometime in the future, some of his pictures. That's Carolyn Colvin in the background.



Bill & Ellie left the driving of their RV from Saint Mary's, GA to Biloxi to **TESSIE TELEGA**, their delightful daughter. Perhaps Tessie's kind help to her parents will serve as an example and encourage other offspring to provide assistance to parents in need of a bit of travel help to get to our reunions. Having these caring young people with us lifts all our spirits and adds to the pleasantness of our gatherings.



PAT & DICK STERNBERG, 396th
Ed.'s choice because Dick is my old Zamboanga, P.L.s stomping ground buddy & because he & Pat are such nice people.



**ED FEIST - DOC EYER
ART FERRIERA**
All 396th guys reunited after 58 years separation

*Wishing Everyone
A Very Blessed & Merry
Christmas*

*And A Peaceful & Healthy
New Year*





The 48th Bombardment Squadron



By Beverly Helmer:

The New Orleans Tour. One hour by bus brought us to NO. Entering the city we saw the huge Super Dome, home of the "Saints." A certified NO Tour Guide joined us to tell about the history and places we would see next. Our first stop was a cemetery where all bodies are entombed above ground in individual family mausoleums. The guide explained this is necessary because the city is below sea level and bodies wouldn't remain in the ground with any high water. We toured past Tulane U. and many old homes that housed famous people with fascinating stories, as related by our guide. We visited the D-Day museum which had pictures & videos of Pacific theater landings as well as all the D-Day European landings.

A two hour lunch stop at Bourbon St. created a choice: eat in one of the famous NO restaurants (this takes time) or pick one of the smaller and quicker places (also with great food) that would leave time to shop as well. We had a chance on the bus to relate the experiences of our choice.

Everyone caught views of the beautiful wrought iron railings on the balconies and the hanging vine and flowers. There was much construction and re-construction on most streets. We visited the harbor where a large white Caribbean cruise ship was docking. People were boarding a stern wheeler boat for an excursion on the Mississippi. Many other sights, too numerous to relate, were "packed in" before leaving NO.

The Biloxi Tour. At Beauvoir, Jefferson Davis' home (now a museum) we saw a short film that made his life real to us. Some were touched deeply as we heard the facts and consequences in his life.

The Shrimp Industry Museum showed us a film of the terrible Hurricane Camille; this was a combination of information to some and fear to others. Hurricane Isidore was out in the Gulf at the time and heading our way.

At the Antebellum House tour, the stairway for the upstairs bedrooms were on the outside, covered by porch eaves. Houses were oriented to catch prevailing winds that flowed through opened windows and doors.

In the Mardi Gras Museum, two of the women in our group became "Queens" with feather capes, and all received bright Mardi Gras necklaces.

The Mad Potters work was amazing and unusual. There is never enough time to take in the unique qualities and talent of such an artist.

We stopped at The Lighthouse in the middle of their major Gulf Highway for picture taking and a briefing about the history & reason for the present location of this famous landmark.

Many of the Great Homes along the Bay Front were identified as to their owners, their history, architecture and the fascinating events that still live with these homes.

The Roman Catholic Croatian Church with a "shell" roof and stained glass "Fish" window was completely funded by parishioners before building began. There were no inside support systems ---just the well-engineered walls and roof structure. It was a beautiful worship place.

Summary: Our tours bus driver & leader were excellent. Our leader, Deborah Raymond, looked out for us like her children. She explained things clearly, told interesting local facts, and kept us on time. High water blocked some roads in Biloxi but she skillfully directed the driver in another way.

As good as anything that happened to us, was the talking to one another during the tours and getting to better know one another at lunch time---it was person to person, renewing Air Field assignments then and home town activities now.

Many thanks to George & Helen Kelly, our hosts, for arranging these educational & fun tours. We had a wonderful time and we are glad we could come.

By John Helmer.

48th Sqdn. Notes: George & Helen put on a great reunion & party for us. The food was out of this world, with some foods we don't see in Oregon, such as shrimp as big as prawn. The catfish, oysters and big crabs were delicious. All this was served at the Casino buffet, a part of our hotel. Hurricane Isidore was, of course, a big event. We met & talked with some of the 150 or so men evacuated to our hotel from a floating oil rig 175 miles off Lafayette, La.

Our pre reunion travel took us to Jackson, MS on Mon. 16th, from where we drove to Vicksburg and two days touring the Battle Field. On Wed. 18th we drove the Natchez Parkway Trail which follows an old Indian trail 442 miles to Nashville, TN. We slept there in an "ante bellum" home named "Linden," owned by six generations of the Conner family. The front door was copied for "Tara" in "Gone With The Wind." We continued on to Lafayette, LA for two days of enjoying Cajun music and food. Arrived Biloxi Sat.

Our scheduled 0700 Thurs. departure was delayed by Isidore until 1600. Despite a curfew and blocked roads, knowledge of the back routes allowed the Kellys to deposit us at the A/P on time. Fortunately, Isidore's winds peaked at 68 mph, not nearly as bad as Okinawa during our typhoon when 4 x 8 plywood sheets were flying through the air and you could not stand erect in the wind.

I talked to **E.J. Tracey**, Orange Beach, AL about coming to the reunion. Health problems prevented full time attendance, but E.J. did make the 3 hr. drive for a visit with us, only to find us away on a tour. His note left with Helen said, "Hello to all! Sorry I missed you. Due to my illness I could not wait until you got back. My very best to all & I hope to make the next one. God Bless. (Signed) E.J. Tracey, Beach Bum, Chief Executive Oyster Shucker."

Beverly and I will host our 41st Bomb Group Reunion in Portland, OR in 2004. Start your thinking about the trip. Portland is easily accessed by major airlines. Particulars will be forthcoming in future newsletters. Do any of you remember that the 47th Sq. was stationed at the Portland Air Base before going overseas?

But remember, Branson in '03 is next. See you there!

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Since the last newsletter I have received dues and gifts from the following people:

RAY HUSCHLE – ARTHUR ROCHIN – FRED EMMERT – AND ED KRIKORIAN, a total of \$115. Thank you.

Our expenses at Biloxi were less than expected so we were able to refund \$20 to each person who registered. Our account balance is \$2635.59.

**Happy Holidays,
Beverly and John**



THE CROW FLIGHT is a publication of the 47TH & 48TH Bombardment Squadrons, 41st Bomb Group, (M) 7th AF WWII

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DUES NEWS: CALENDAR YEAR DUES FOR THE 47TH IS \$12. THE 48TH SQ UADRON DUES IS \$15. MORE IS ACCEPTED. \$3 EXTRA WILL PURCHASE A RESPECTIVE SQ. ROSTER. MAIL CHECKS PAYABLE TO: URBAN A. GUTTING FOR THE 47TH OR JOHN HELMER FOR THE 48TH (ADDRESSES ↑↑)

***REQUEST A FORM * - TO FILL OUT & RETURN FOR PUBLICATION OF YOUR LIFE HIGHLIGHTS SINCE DEACTIVATION. WE REALLY!! ARE INTERESTED. 47TH OR 48TH CONTACT URBAN A. GUTTING, ADDRESS ABOVE.**

\$\$ 47TH FINANCIAL REPORT \$\$

THE CROW FLIGHT'S Tail Winds since last report came from: EARL & MARION GRUENWALD - BILL & BOBBIE MAC MINN, 396th - HAROLD MOODY, 820th - MAURICE & MARILYN SMITH - GEORGE TOLBERT - RICARDO & MARILYN RONDINELLI - GUS & ENID ANDERSON, 820th - JOHN W. ANDERSON - ARNOLD & DORIS SAYER - ROBERT & BETTY MC DERMOTT - LOLA WAMPLER (Memory of AUSTIN) - JOEY FREI-RUSSELL (Memory of LE GRAND FREI) - FRANCIS & EVELYN LISAK - FRANCIS LISAK, JR. - JEANETTE & MKE PHILLIPS (LISAK) - BILL & ELLIE TELEGA

To date, 54 members and friends have contributed \$1095 total for fiscal 2002. Thanks to all of you for keeping THE CROW FLIGHT flying. Others wishing to contribute please refer to the masthead above for check writing and mailing instructions.

The 47th's USAA Account balance as of 11/01/2002 was \$2898.58. The 47th's estimated share of this NL's costs is \$450, payment of which will leave a balance of approximately \$2450. We are in good shape financially, so will continue with the current \$12 calendar year dues.

BILOXI FINANCES: Happy to report that after settling all Biloxi Reunion payments due accounts, the 47th had a \$428.49 "Reunion Surplus," thus enabling us to refund the tidy amount of \$20 to each of 21 Reunion Registrants. Likewise, the 48th Sq., with a \$230.54 surplus, refunded \$20 to each of their 11 Registrants. **HO! HO! HO! MERRY CHRISTMAS!**

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DEDICATED TO ALL WHO FLEW BEHIND ROUND ENGINES

We gotta get rid of these turbines, they are ruining aviation.

Anybody can start a turbine. You just need to move a switch from "OFF" to "START," and then remember to move it back to "ON" after a while. My PC is harder to start.

Cranking a round engine requires skill, finesse and style. On some planes, the pilots aren't even allowed to do it.

Turbines start by whining for a while, then give a small lady-like poof and start whining louder.

Round engines give a satisfying rattle-rattle, dick-click, BANG, more rattles, and another BANG, a big macho FART or two, more clicks, a lot of smoke and finally a serious low pitched roar. We like that. It's a guy thing.

When you start a round engine, your mind is engaged and you can concentrate on the flight ahead. Starting a turbine is like flicking on a ceiling fan: Useful, but hardly exciting.

Turbines don't break often enough, leading to aircrew boredom, complacency and inattention. A round engine at speed looks and sounds like it's going to blow at any minute. This helps concentrate the mind.

Turbines don't have enough control levers to keep a pilot's attention. There's nothing to fiddle with during long flights.

Turbines smell like a Boy Scout camp full of Coleman lanterns. Round engine planes smell like God intended machines to smell.

The man approached the very beautiful woman in the large supermarket and said, "I've lost my wife here in the supermarket. Can you talk to me for a couple minutes?" The woman looked puzzled. "Why talk to me?" she asked. Because every time I talk to a woman with tits like yours, my wife appears out of nowhere."

Don't cry because it's over... smile because it happened.

I think I hear the nurse coming down the hall. I gotta go.

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REUNIONS CALENDAR

820th Bomb Sq. at New Orleans,
LA. May 8 – 11, 2003. Contact Bill
Childs, Tel 804-275-6012.

47TH, 48TH & 396TH Bomb Sqdns.
at Branson, MO. Sept. 15 – 17,
2003. Lou & Corine Beisser 396th,
Reunion Planners. 863-385-9475

**47th, 48th, 396th, 820th (?) Bomb
Sqdns.** At Portland, OR, probably
late Sept. 2004. John & Beverly
Helmer, Reunion Planners.

Quad-Squad. At George Tolbert &
Bev's ranch near Bristow, OK, late
Sept. 2005. George Tolbert & Bev,
Reunion Planners. (Don't take this
seriously---yet.)

47th & 48th Bomb. Sqds.

The Crow Flight

Urban Gutting

7047 Autumn Chase

San Antonio, TX 78238-2118