



The Crow Flight



Thirty-eighth Newsletter of the 47th, 48th, 396th & 820th Bombardment Squadrons, 41st Bombardment Group (M), 7th AF, WWII, Issued April 2007



REUNIONCOORDINATOR WARREN "DOC" EYER IS FLANKED BY HIS HOST SQUADRON 396th COMRADE
ATTENDEES: LOUIE BEISSER, JOHN "BAGGY" BAGLIETTO - "DOC" - DICK STERNBERG, BILL MAC MINN AND BRUCE HANSON

"THE TUCSON REUNION" IN REVIEW



his ever supportive and loving spouse, Terry, and his three *lovely* nieces, Virginia Mann, Kathy Martinez and Barbara Palmer. (L to R)

Those three were seemingly everywhere, catering to our needs and comfort all during the reunion. They were also at the "Great Guru's" bidding for a myriad of preplanning tasks. With certainty, Doc has expressed his appreciation for their essential help.

On behalf of all of us who were the beneficiaries of their dedicated talents and toil, we add our most sincere thanks and appreciation.

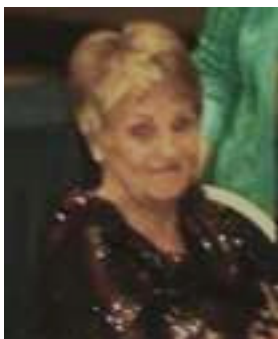
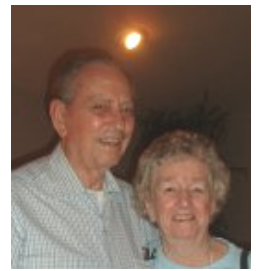
"Doc" did it! As promised, he delivered a rousing, smash-hit, five-star production that was unanimously cheered by all 66 folks in attendance. Even the weather cooperated to his bidding, dropping from a rainy mid-90s temperature to a very pleasant and dry mid-80s for the reunion days; and never was Doc in danger of having to pay off on his brave "No Tucson Hurricane" guarantee.

Doc was not without help. His team consisted of

Don't know if Doc actually said it but, if not, he should have:

"We couldn't have done it without you!"





"DOC" REPORTS:

What a pleasure it was to host the great 41st Group here in Tucson...an honor, the memory of which exhausts me and brings a laugh or tear to my heart and face. Thank you, one and all, for attending.

And special thanks to my supportive wife, Terry, and to my beautiful and charming nieces, Virginia, Barbara and Kathy...and my handsome friend, Lyndon Johnson, all of whom made it possible.

A question was asked about the Intarsia U.S. Flag presented as an attendance prize. Woodworking is one of my hobbies and Intarsia is a style of decorative inlay, or mosaic work, creating a pictorial work of colored wood. Pieces are cut and fitted and glued to a backing. Example: the 50 stars in the work piece...drill a 1/16" hole in each star, fit through a line scroll saw blade and carefully cut out the star...takes a lot of patience and hard work...buffing, sanding, shaping and piecing. It is very good therapy, and this, especially, was a labor of love.

What a charge it was to have attend so many sons and daughters and even a grandson: Charley and his son John Orr, son and grandson of William, 396th; Sean & Katy Casey, son of Vince, 396th; Rolf Grandstaff, son of John, 47th; Mike Simko, son of George, 396th; Kemary Crowder, daughter of Kem Sitterley, 47th; and Anne Meador, daughter of Dick Sternberg, 396th. Matt Holly, who traveled from the Marshall Islands, and his father, Eugene, were special attendees. Welcome all.

I was especially fortunate to sit with General and Mrs. David Jones at the Banquet...what a treat. Just wish all of you could have enjoyed my good fortune. General Jones delivered a fascinating account of his experiences as a participant of the B-25 Doolittle raid on Tokyo, Japan. I want to extend my personal and related thanks, on behalf of all our reunion attendees, to General Jones for his significant contribution to our gathering.

Extra special thanks to Urb Gutting and Lou Beisser for all their help and guidance. And Lou, Bill Scouso sends his congrats on your winning the golf "left-handed participant" award of his donated gold plated left-handed putter.

It was special to have Gene Olsen, without whom our reunions might not be taking place...he pretty much started the ball rolling. Thanks Gene, and to all those comrades who are with us in memory only. With Warm Love to all, Doc & Terry

BEVERLY HELMER'S TUCSON TOURS REPORT:

A preview note from Beverly: "Forgive me for writing so much. I thought the tours were outstanding and I couldn't stop. The whole reunion was absolutely superb: Good fellowship, good food, excellent banquet...and your leadership and all that you do to make it happen. Thanks."

On Tuesday, Oct. 10, 2006, forty-two of us jolly people boarded the bus at 9:00 am to drive 25 minutes to the Davis/Monthan AFB AMARC (Aerospace Maintenance and Regeneration Center) and the Pima Air and Space Museum.

As we drove, our guide related some interesting local facts. He told us that in the greater Tucson area, on a clear day, you can see for 60-80 miles, and there are humming birds aplenty. Tucson is in Pima County, a part of the Gadsen Purchase, bought from Mexico in 1854. On February 14, 1912, Arizona became a state; New Mexico, a state in 1912.

After 15 minutes driving we were told to "keep eyes right"...see acres of storage planes. "Eyes left"...more planes parked outside. This Moth-Ball-Fleet, 4300 airplanes stored outside on 260 acres, was started in 1946.

Davis/Monthan Air field was established in 1926 and dedicated in Sept., 1927 by Charles Lindberg, who had made airplane history that previous May, 1927 with his non-stop flight across the Atlantic. Lindberg's dedication was the first official airport dedication in the United States. We drove by within sight of the original hanger.

At 12:50 pm, 20 minutes later, we arrived at the Pima Air and Space Museum, opened May 8, 1976. This is the largest privately funded air museum in the world. We had 1 1/2 hours to tour and see the restored airplanes. Each B-25 man can tell his own story of standing by the plane he once crewed or supported. Some of you saw other planes that you once flew. Some of us walked through the "Air Force One" plane that Presidents Kennedy and Johnson had used. We had a wonderful day of fellowship and flight memories on this tour.

We departed at 12:30 pm for the Golden Corral cafeteria and enjoyed a great variety of food there.

Then, it was on to our Hospitality Room for more stories, pictures, movies and refreshments. A relaxing hot tub dip or swim at the heated hotel pool was also an option...that John and I partook of.

On Wednesday at 8:30 am, 40 of us departed for the Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum. Over the Tucson Mts., on I19S, one of the hillsides had a large "A" for the U of Arizona...called the "Wildcats" for their winning spirit. Along the highway we noticed the metric system being used here as a test area for the nation and for future uses. We traveled into the Senora Desert, the only place where the giant saguaro cactus grows. Hillsides were covered with the cactus pillars, often with no "arms." It takes a saguaro (sa-war-oh) cactus 50 years to produce its first arm. Birds make their homes in the saguaro cactus and the holes give a damaged look to the cactus. This cactus can grow to 50 feet and may weigh 10 tons. It grows in lands that drain into the Gulf of California. Indians use the dried woody ribs of the saguaro stems for fuel and for making frames for their houses. They eat the saguaro fruit, which ripens in June and July, either fresh or as preserves.

At the Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum, we saw a world-renowned zoo, a natural history museum and a botanical garden, all in one place...the only distinct Living Desert in the world. We could see more than 300 animal species and 1200 kinds of plants alive in their natural settings. Almost 2 miles of paths traversed 21 acres of beautiful desert. Some of us were glad that wheel chairs and motorized scooters were available; the day was lovely with breath-taking views.

We saw lizards, snakes, scorpions and tarantulas safely tucked behind glass for a close view. Arizona wildflower models were stunning. Deserts, the Sonora Desert, and the museum itself was explained. The Mexican border was 6 miles to the south. A true caving exhibit, with 75 feet of low ceiling and tight passages was offered; also a fine collection of regional minerals and gemstones. In the Mountain Woodland, a big mountain lion was asleep against the glass, face up for all to see and count his whiskers. The Desert Grassland had real prairie dogs popping up out of their holes. At the Cat Canyon, we saw a beautiful small ocelot down as far as it could go in a narrow steep space. Large birds and Bighorn sheep were in sight. The walk-in aviary (40 native species) was shaded with vines and had benches for sitting. Pollinated Gardens had a sight to behold: dozens of butterflies out in the open...some yellow landing on orange flowers, others brownish on pink flowers, etc...unbelievable. The Hummingbird Aviary took good eyesight and patience to see those tiny, tiny birds as they dashed about. After the gardens, stream sides and fish and turtles, we came to the javelins or

peccaries, hooved forest animals related to the wild hog...scary to see and strange. Four big ones were snuggled down together in a large fenced-in-open area. Fine pigskin jackets and gloves are made from their hides. They are shy and will flee from you, but if cornered, they have sharp teeth. They are scavengers and a pest in residential neighborhoods when in the wild. After all our hillside viewing, we came to the Café & Coffee Shop. We departed for our hotel at 12:45 pm. We had a fascinating and educational day. Cheers to our Tucson hosts, Doc and Terry and their three beautiful nieces. And thank you to all the planners who made this Tucson Reunion such a remarkable, friendly and educational experience.

MY COMMENTS: Thanks, Beverly, for so vividly describing your tours experiences and observations. I'm sure many will agree that you revealed items of interest we missed...there were just too many wonderful things to see it all, in the time we had

THE DOUBLETREE HOTEL: Accommodations and food...restaurant and banquet, all earned a two-thumbs up ratings. The breakfast buffet, included in the room rate, was gourmet-close. A rack of lamb (my favorite dish) in the Javelina Cantina dining room was superb. But the highest accolade must go to the banquet food. The prime rib, in my estimation was, simply, the best I've ever eaten. It was a generous portion...tender, uniquely flavorful and done medium rare. The chicken parmesan choice was also rated tops by the several folks I asked. Vegetables were neither rock-like al dente nor overcooked. Not often can I not polish off the entire desert, but the evilly good German chocolate, nut covered cake was so huge I had to accept failure.

While on the banquet subject, I suppose this is the appropriate time to relate a personally wrenching occurrence. Bill and Bobbie MacMinn had purchased a beautiful 92nd birthday card for Bill Telega. It was passed around for signatures and given to me at about the time I aborted the German chocolate cake and met with the catering manager to settle the banquet bill. There was a disconcerting billing item that caused me (I'm claiming) to forget the Birthday Card left on the table. Subsequent search proved futile. Mea culpa. The card I sent, as explained to Bill, was a poor substitute, but did convey sincere best wishes from all Tucson attendees for his continued good health and longevity.

Our rooms were 4-star: large, well furnished, pleasant views and each bed provided with five luxurious pillows, an amenity I've never experienced while sleeping around the world, so to speak.

Hospitality room accommodations negotiated by “Doc” were both unique and very functional. Three adjoining ground floor guest rooms stripped of non-essential furniture, along with access to a palm shrouded patio, provided four gathering areas for conversation and viewing of VCR tapes. The patio area accessed close and very pleasant viewing of the adjacent pool area Jacuzzi, particularly so on Sunday when it was occupied by a number of youthful and pulchritudinous National Amateur Tennis Tournament distaff participants.

Our Monday pm Group Meeting was quite interesting from several aspects. Following a few benign remarks by yours truly, Kem Sitterly’s 2007 Reunion site proposals inadvertently ignited a festering diatribe that may not...or may...have resolved the combatants’ personal animosity but, hopefully, cleared the air, so to speak...and, hopefully, did not distract from the essential need for unity of participation by all squadron members for future Reunions.

Post meeting peace restoration, **Matt Holly** was introduced. He poignantly prefaced his presentation by saying he hoped he would live long enough to have comrades in their eighties with whom to argue. Matt then narrated fascinating accounts of his adventures in the Gilbert Islands, where he has dedicated much time and treasure to researching, finding, videoing and chronicling downed 41st Group Bombardment aircraft, as well as those of other WWII units. Later, in the Hospitality Room, Matt enhanced his presentation with VCR and narration. It was mesmerizing to watch Matt’s camera panning of the aircraft and the so familiar cockpit, radio station and other segments of this B-25, and to realize that this aircraft has lain so serenely for some 60 plus years after it and its crew’s violent demise. His presentations were highlight events of our reunion, for which we profoundly thank you, Matt.

As “Doc” mentioned, Matt’s father, retired **Navy Captain Eugene Holly**, a pilot and aeronautical engineer, attended with Matt. Both father and son are imposing and genial 6’3-4” specimens of American manhood. Other special friend attendees were **Frank and Nancy Hanley**. Thank you all for joining us.

Sean Casey, son of deceased Vincent E. 396th, a Tucson resident and now the generous host of our “**Don Haskell’s 41st Bomb. Gp. Memorial Website**” graced us, along with spouse **Katy**, with their presence. Sean also brought three large pictures of our B-25 that his father had framed, along with a very nostalgic WWII scrapbook kept by Vincent’s mother. And then came...**Rolf Grandstaff**, our 41st Website

Manager from N. Carolina. [Rolf now has most of #18-37 *The Crow Flight* out there on the 41st web site...he’s waiting on Kem’s input of #1-17)]. We finally got some pictures of this stalwart ex (sic) U.S. Marine. Because of his work schedule, Rolf has attended only two days of each past two reunions, but he has vowed to attend through the banquet for the next. We really do appreciate and enjoy the reunion presence of our 41st Group kinfolk and friends.

The Reunion Finances bottom line was a negative amount, thus setting the stage for heroic rescue by generosity of the following stalwarts: **Jerry Allee, Jack Audiss, Fred Deutsch, “Doc” Eyer, Bruce Hanson, Matt Holly, Morgan Malloy, Bill MacMinn and Charley Orr**. Some contributions were in the form of declined refunds for overpaid or missed events and some were outright cash donations. The remaining deficit was arbitrarily assessed to the “gift” portion of a *very generous* dues and gift contribution to the 47th Sq. by **Bill and Ellie Telega**.

This was one of the rare reunion misses for Bill and Ellie and it was due to required attendance at their youngest granddaughter’s wedding. Look for a picture of Ellie, bride and Bill in the next TCF – it was a casualty of the hard drive crash. Told Ellie that beauty obviously runs in the family. Also, note the dapper, now 92 youngster’s sartorial selections which, hopefully, he will wear at our next reunion banquet.

A mitigating reunion absence event occurred on Ellie’s 82nd birthday. She spoiled her surprise party by spending the day in the hospital after her new van was rear-ended. There were lingering ailments from a dislocated shoulder and bruised leg, but she is fine now.

Ellie’s 82nd B/D party invitees and other friends contributed 82 cents each so Ellie could shop for her Food Pantry and Veteran’s Hospital funds. “They called Tess about 6 and said, ‘can you walk your mama out to the porch?’ And there they came, 26 friends with cake, flowers, a large container of non-perishable foods, \$148.22, and singing H.B.D. I was so sedated...but I do remember every smile, laugh and grin of all.”

“Bill still goes to ‘Bill’s Place’ at 6 every a.m. Sweeps & stocks then comes home 8 or 9 for a big breakfast. Then goes to his garden or cutting wood or the grass. Keeps the pool clean. All that is what keeps him going. He attends V.F.W. first Tuesday every month.” On some unspecified 2006 date Bill and Ellie celebrated (it was a blast, said Ellie) their 60th wedding anniversary. ‘Show-off Bill’ placed a beautiful ring on my finger. I only gave him a kiss.”

• **ARNOLD CARSTENSEN SAYER JR**

47TH Bombardment Squadron, died of lung cancer and complications on November 11, 2006. His death was just one month after he and Doris attended our Tucson Reunion. Thus, he surely displayed his true grit and loyalty to his wartime comrades.

Picture, taken at Tucson, is as we will remember Arnold.

Arnold was born in New York City on April 21, 1923. He attended Virginia Episcopal School in Lynchburg, VA and served during WWII in the Army Air Corps as a pilot with the 41st Bombardment Group (M). He also served in the Korean conflict.

He retired as a 1st Lt. from the US Air Force in 1968 after 26 years of active duty that included service in Germany, England, Spain, Japan and SE Asia.

Arnold volunteered much of his time throughout his military career to the Boy Scouts of America. After retirement from the Air Force he worked as a District Executive for the Miami Valley Council of Boy Scouts, Dayton, Ohio and also for the Tecumseh Council in Springfield, OH. He was a member of the Military Officers Association of America and was Treasurer of the NH Chapter for 10 years.

He and his family moved to Springfield, NH in 1971 where they owned and operated Wildwood Forest Campground. During the winter months Arnold operated a ski lift at Sunapee State Park for 25 years.

He was predeceased by his parents, Arnold C. and Blanche Sayer, Sr. and a brother, Murray D. Sayer. He leaves his wife of 46 years, Doris (Morgan) Sayer and children, Arnold C. Sayer III of Springfield, NH, Diana Rodriguez of National City, CA, Susan Sayer of San Diego, CA, Steven M. Sayer (US Army Ret.) of Lawton, OK, Keith Sayer of Newport, NH, Kristin Gregory of Newport, and Niki Laughing Otter of Bradenton, FL. Also 12 grandchildren and several great children, a sister, Jane Sayer of Raleigh and many nephews, nieces and cousins.

A memorial service was held on November 16, 2006 at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, New London, NH and burial at Arlington National Cemetery on 29 January 2007, with full military honors.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Norris Cotton Cancer Center, One Medical C, Lebanon, NH 03756

A warm note from Doris: "...I got home yesterday from DC, one very tired old lady. If it weren't for the children I doubt whether I would have made it. There were 17



family members at Arlington, with very few understanding the military ceremony and honor, but with *everyone very impressed*. In addition to the color bearers and guards there was a platoon of soldiers marching ahead of the caisson being pulled by six dappled horses, with a mounted guard leading. As he was carried from the caisson to the burial site, there was a drum roll. After the volley of shots, a bugler played taps. It was a very impressive ceremony and I kept thinking how Arnold would have loved it. My children feel that he earned it.

...We left Tucson without hearing where or when the next reunion will be held. I can't promise to be there, but sure will try...Keep in touch – email OK, although I may be slow with it. Thanks for everything – Doris”

• **GEORGE W. HARRISON**

47th Bombardment Sqdn, died on October 7, 2006. George, along with son Timothy and his spouse, Connie Castanera, was scheduled to arrive for our Tucson Reunion on that date.

Timothy sent the following: My father, husband of his late spouse, Dorothy, died at age 84. A retired Master Plumber, he is survived by son, Tim, grandsons Tim, Jr. and Jeff and four great grandchildren.

George's passion was the American Legion where he held offices at the local state and national levels. He was also appointed to multiple terms on the Maryland Veteran's Commission by two different governors. For 20 years post-retirement, George kept busy driving a van for physically challenged students at his local community college. From managing little league baseball teams, to organizing oratorical contests, to teaching flag etiquette programs in numerous schools, George's life was truly one of service to others. He is loved and missed by his family and his many friends.

• **EDWARD J. TRUSEVITCH**

Son Peter Trusevitch wrote: My father passed away on January 13th, 2007 after a long illness. He is survived by his wife (Pauline), 2 sons and 2 daughters, and ten grandchildren.

Enlisted on Jan. 17th 1942 – separation, Oct. 10th, 1945. Flew 51 missions, as a TSgt. Radio/Gunner on a B-25. His history/awards: WWII Victory medal, America Theater Medal flying anti-sub patrols on East coast of the Asiatic Pacific campaign. Awarded 3 Battle Stars in the Central Pacific. Flew in the Marshall Islands, Gilberts, and Carolinas. Awarded Air Medal, with one Silver Cluster, one Bronze Cluster, and the (DFC) Distinguished Flying Cross, with one Bronze Cluster. He was part of the 7th AirForce, 820th Bomb Squadron

• **JEROME "JERRY" CASSELL**

of Mt. Dora, Florida died Wednesday, December 20th, 2006. He is survived by his wife of 60 years, the former Marion Ruskin of Jersey City, N. J. He is a veteran of WW II, a member of the 820th Bombardment Squadron, and served in the Pacific Theatre of Operation for more than three years. His rank was Tech. Sgt.

After the army he earned his Engineering Degree and became plant superintendent of Schnitzer Alloy Products Co. of Elizabeth, N. J.

In 1977, a representative from Israel asked Jerry to help them (in their company) in Israel. Jerry spent three years in Habonim, in the Upper Galilee, Israel. He designed a new valve for them (which they still use today) and he helped them set up a new, larger machine shop. He returned to Florida in 1981. He hardly had time to get used to Florida again when he was contacted by Worcester Valve of Worcester, Mass. They requested his service in Mexico City and in São Paulo, Brazil. So Jerry and Marion were off again. Almost four years later returned to Florida once more, - - this time they stayed retired.

Also surviving are two children, Ruth Cassell of Los Angeles and Dr. Jack L. Cassell of Mt. Dora, Florida, and four grandchildren.

• **ART FERRIERA**

was enrolled in the 396th Bomb. Sq. "Silver Taps" roster on 13 Sept. 2006.

Received this note from Liz Feist: Don't know if you got the sad news about Art or not, as you probably were at the reunion. We received a letter from Art's sister, Lorraine Nune. No details, but she knew how close Ed and Art were. It really shook us up but you never know when it may happen to us. Told Ed he had better go to the reunions as you never know when his best friends will be gone. Hope you had a nice reunion.

Got Lorraine's phone number and Ed talked to her. She doesn't have a copy of the obit and she wasn't, from what I understand, notified of any details. She said Art had everything pre-arranged. She would like to keep getting the newsletters about the group so she can keep up with them. Liz

From Liz: More bad news. Got a call Nov. 27th that Pauline, my brother Leo's wife, had passed away, so we made a flying trip to Illinois for the services. They traveled all the time, and since we couldn't arrange the Tucson Reunion trip, they had made reservations for Australia. Pauline's death was very sudden, apparently a heart attack. Liz & Ed.

Readers will remember that Leo & Pauline attended several of our Reunions and that Pauline was the

audience participant who livened up the "Bath House Musical" at our Hot Springs Reunion.

• **A note from Mrs. R.W. Strong, Jr.:**

"This is to inform you that Maj. Gen. ROBERT W. STRONG died on March 16, 2006, at his home in Tucson, AZ. He always enjoyed your newsletter." General Strong was a member of the 47th Bombardment Squadron and was retired from the USAF.

• **A note from Mrs. Theodore John:**

"Sincere thanks for The Crow Flight. Ted passed away in Feb. 2006. "

THEODORE T. JOHN was a member of the 47th Bombardment Squadron.

SQUADRON NOTES: Frank Lisak, Jr. wrote: Hi! My Dad had a tumor removed from his small intestine and is now in "assisted living" at Sterling House #140, 1400 E. Coolspring Ave., Michigan City, IN, 46360.

41st Bomb Gp. Website contact with Rolf Grandstaff from Thomas Hagar: My father was Valentine "Val" B. Hagar. He served with the 48th Bomb. Sq. from 1942 to 1945. Val was a welder and mechanic for the B-25'. He made mention of training at Hammer Field; amphibious training in Hawaii; and the Gilbert Islands; along with contracting dengue fever. He suffered from nightmares throughout his life, even jumping out a second floor window when I was a small boy.

Val never talked much about the war but when I asked him, shortly before his death, to tell me where he'd been during the war, he told me about his Colonel being killed in a Jeep accident and how a buddy was killed right next to him. He spoke of his friend very slowly and in a soft tone trying to describe how he tried to pick up the pieces. With tears in his eyes he quit talking and we never spoke about the war again.

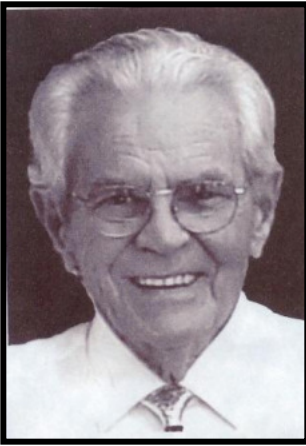
I know my father was in a military hospital in Walla Walla, WA, for psychological evaluation after the 48th returned to Hawaii from the Islands after twenty plus months.

Is there more information about the 48th Sq & 41st Gp? Thank you so much.

Thomas added in a separate note: My father was born Feb. 14, 1924 in Argyle, WI. He died in January 1987 in Harlingen, TX.

I wonder if any of the veterans remember my father. He was a Golden Gloves boxer who was called on frequently to settle disputes or so it has been said? Thank you for any information.

Thomas Hagar, 2421 NE Spring Creek Dr., Lee's Summit, MO 64086. Tel (816) 525-3281. E-mail thomashagar@msn.com



Robert Louis Bleicher

Age 84, died at home on Wednesday, September 13, 2006 as a result of a long illness. Robert was born in Dayton, Ohio, attended St. Anthony grade school and graduated from Fairview High School, class of 1940. He also attended the University of Dayton. When World War II broke out, Bob enlisted in the Air Force as a cadet. He earned his wings in June 1944. Bob Bleicher and Marjorie Gargrave were married on July 1, 1944. He returned to the war and flew B25 bombers in the Pacific Theatre. Upon his return, Robert joined his father-in-law in a new business, Dayton Progress Corp. Bob was a former president of Dayton Tooling & Machining Association, and Dayton Punch Manufacturers. Bob retired as President of Dayton Progress in 1982. Bob and Marjorie have wintered in Arizona for the past 24 years. They celebrated their 62nd wedding anniversary this past July. Robert is survived by his beloved wife Marjorie, and five children,

Vintage B-25 flies Dayton skies / Wright airport uses Bomber to promote rides.

MIAMISBURG – Taxiing to the runway for takeoff, its powerful twin engines throttled and backfiring, the vintage B-25 bounced and shimmied over the uneven concrete like a gooney bird anxious to get off the ground. But when pilot Jim Terry gave it the gas the warbird's two Wright Cyclone radial engine rumbled, then gave voice to their distinctive roar and, within seconds, the B-25 was aloft --- a graceful bird of prey over a vast sea of Midwest greenery.

The "Pacific Prowler," a historic B-25 Mitchell bomber touring the country in honor of the nation's veterans was at Dayton Wright Brothers Airport to give a demonstration flight to members of the media and to promote the rides it will offer the public.

World War II veteran Bob Bleicher looked to the sky when he heard the plane's distinctive drone over his home on Yankee Road. "My wife and I were in our car in a minute" and on our way to the airport, he said.

One of Bleicher's last trips in a B-25 was an eventful one, to say the least. On July 29, 1945, just weeks before the war in the Pacific came to an end, Bleicher and his crew were shot down in the B-25 he was piloting on a bombing mission over the southernmost island of Japan. The survivors spent the night in an open raft in sight of the Japanese coast before being rescued.

Bleicher said he still has a strong emotional attachment to the small bomber which was made famous by Lt. Col. Jimmy Doolittle's surprise attack on Japan in 1942 in retaliation for the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, "It was very forgiving, very tough and very dependable," he said.

Bleicher was later asked to sign the bomb bay door, which will be signed by veterans all over the country before being donated to the permanent collection at the Smithsonian Institution.



WORLD WAR II veteran Bob Bleicher signs the bomb bay of a B-25 bomber visiting the Wright Brothers Airport. Bleicher piloted a B-25 that was shot down in the Pacific after a bomb run over Japan.

The bomber's national tour is sponsored by the Tulsa Air and Space Museum in Tulsa, OK, where officials first spotted the abandoned plane in an Internet ad last summer. Once used as a transport plane for military brass during the war and then later as a prop in scores of Hollywood films, including *Catch 22* and *Flight of the Phoenix*, the plane had been languishing in a rotting hangar in San Antonio, TX since 1999.

The museum reconditioned the plane in the winter and was later granted a waiver from the Federal Aviation Administration to put it on national tour.

"We are losing our World War II veterans at a rate of about 1,000 a day," Terry said. "We wanted to get this out to them and their families, so they could see it, hear it, smell it one more time,"

Marjorie wrote: I wish to thank you in Advance for notifying the members of Bob's death. We attended most of the reunions in Vegas, and the ones on the east coast. We hosted one in 1998 in Dayton, OH. We haven't attended for several years as Bob's health declined. I hope you can use some of these notices as they were very meaningful to Bob this last year. Another notice: Bernie Pracko's wife, Dorohy, is very ill with cancer. Her address is PO Box 5743, Carefree, AZ 85277. I'm sure she would appreciate cards from her friends in the 820th. Sincerely, Marjorie Bleicher

THE 2007 41ST BOMB GROUP REUNION site selection and plans are still undetermined. The only positive action taken has been by **Fred Deutsch**, 48th, who had several consultations with a professional reunion planner for the Washington DC area. The consensus, however, found the proposed costs to be over the acceptable range, i.e....way too expensive. Fred said he will continue to do research on his own.

When definite plans materialize, details will be published ASAP.

Perhaps...there is someone else out there who has been dangling a thought about hosting our reunion?? If so, now is the time to grab the dangle and wrestle it into action. Be not afraid for, as "Doc Tucson" will tell you, all it takes is three beautiful and talented nieces to do the work. Or, you can "wing" it as Joe "Hot Springs" Roop did so successfully. Louie "Branson" Beisser did it all on the phone during his home "happy hours"...and what a grand time we had. Kem Sitterley, Keith Ingstad and George Tolbert did it the old fashioned "work your tail off" way, but they are available to guide you on how to avoid such over-toil.

From Kem Sitterley: I had such a wonderful time at the Tucson Reunion, mostly due to all the great work by Terry & Doc Eyer.

Some dummass-guy made a motion assigning hosts for the '07 & '08 reunions...this set off quite an argument, and nothing else.

Bill Childs did tell me he would "jump at the chance" if the reunion were in 2008 but 2007 was out...it seems that some guy named Washington discovered Atlantis just exactly four hundred years ago and he had given everyone leave so they could go down to Jamestown along with their girl friends from Valley Forge, so getting hotel rooms was just impossible. [?] ...goin' home day and what a delightful day. Daughter Kemary and I had just been seated in the hotel coffee shop; and who should walk in but Dick Sternberg and daughter Anne! We had such a nice hour with them...and then right after we checked into the airport who should amble in but Beverly and John Helmer. Another wonderful time was had with them before we had to depart our separate ways.

John Helmer, 48TH reports: Portland recently had a snow storm fall on already icy streets and it shut down the city for two days. I was walking down a steep hill on the way to our store when I fell and hit the back of my head and lost my memory for 40 minutes. Don't remember how I got to the store and couldn't remember the safe combination. When son John III arrived he saw the blood running down my neck and got me to the ER. I had a concussion but the brain scan showed nothing [Yes, I was tempted.] happened to my brain.

Received a letter from Dave Crane saying that **Chauncey Kershaw** passed away January 14, 2007.

Virginia and Chauncey were regular attendees at our reunions. We always had a great joy being with them.

Bruce Hanson, 396th, said he has a golfing friend in Pocatello, ID who had an uncle, last name, Barry, who flew B-25s and was killed in a two plane collision at Morati. If anyone has information about this, Bruce will pass it on. [I was on Morati and do not recall any such incident involving 41st Gp. B-25s. The planes in question probably belonged to some other unit.]

With love from Mary Zachok: The reunion was great thanks to the 3 angels that ran it. They were so very gracious, kind, helpful and charming. (Maybe they can run all of our reunions.)

[Bev & John Helmer also want another reunion in Tucson – and see next note.]

Bill MacMinn said: Bobbie & I really enjoyed the reunion. We flew into Phoenix, rented a car & visited old air bases where I was stationed & took my WWII pilot training. I agree with Bev Helmer; Tucson would have my vote for a repeat reunion.

Mary Elen Ramstack sends greetings from Door County, Wisconsin! Please find enclosed dues and a bit extra for the "coffers." My late husband and I were happily able to attend several of the reunions in the '80s and early '90s.

Thanks for all the hard work that you and the others put into what must be a Herculean task at times. You are all appreciated.

Betty McDermott wrote: Sorry if I'm late with the dues – time goes by and I find myself suddenly not keeping up my obligations! Bob was always my reminder on certain things. Sure miss him.

Dale Storms said: Sorry I'm late (or maybe I'm not). Not sure when dues is due. Hope all is well with you and – again, I appreciate your (and others) efforts to help us all "remember." May God bless.

John Sacco: I keep falling out of the ranks of the good guys – please get me back in. And thanks again for *The Crow Flight* – really enjoy it.

ANOTHER MINI REUNION with Dick and Pat Sternberg in March is a fond remembrance for a list of reasons – headed by their warm and genuine hospitality. Seeing two of my World Champion St. Louis Cardinals games was neat. Dick's culinary expertise culminated with his rendition of Veal Françoise. His New York steak and St. Pat's honorary meal, graced with daughter Anne's presence, of Corned Beef and Cabbage also solidified his culinary reputation. A visit from Pat's exuberant personality book writing collaborator was a highlight.

Most memorable, however, was a Sunday luncheon with **Bill & Jean Vickers** and their daughter Donna & her friend Carl. Bill was crew chief of our Zamboanga, PI C-47 Gooney Bird. Reminences abounded, but it would take a book to recount them all.



THE CROW FLIGHT is a publication of the 47TH, 48TH, 396TH & 820TH B-25 Billy Mitchell Bombardment Squadrons, 41st Bomb. Group, (M) 7th AF, WWII

Currently, the targeted publication schedule is Feb. – May – Aug. – Nov.

YOU MUST PROVIDE materials for publication. Requests for your "Bio" form should be sent to your Sq. Rep. or Urban A. Gutting, postal, tel. & e-mail addresses below.

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CHANGE OF ADDRESS: Contact Your Sq. Representative or "The Crow Flight" Editor & Publisher, Urban A. Gutting, addresses above.

DUES NEWS: 2006 CALENDAR YEAR DUES FOR THE 47TH & 48TH IS \$5, INCLUDING A ROSTER; 396TH DUES IS \$15 + \$3 FOR A ROSTER AND THE 820TH DUES IS \$10.

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE & SEND TO: EMERY TUTTLE 820TH, WARREN EYER 396TH, JOHN HELMER 48TH & URBAN A. GUTTING 47TH. ADDRESSES ABOVE.

\$\$ FINANCIAL REPORTS \$\$

47TH BOMB. SQ. Good Guys and Gals dues and gift contributors for 2006 SLR (since last report) are: Betty McDermott (Memory of Robert) - Bill & Ellie Telega - Charles & Carmen Reddig - Raymond Kuttenkuller - Arnold & Doris Sayer - John & Lois Welfare - Thom & Mary Zachok. Dues & gifts for 2006 totaled \$785. **2007 dues payers are:** Thom & Mary Zachok - Leroy & Mary Julian - Bill & Ellie Telega - Reginald Gauthier - Marry Ellen Ramstack (Memory of Richard). The 47th bank balance as of 4-1-2007 was \$2809.97.

48TH BOMB. SQ. - John Helmer reports dues and gifts received SLR from Anna Smith (Memory of Charles Colletti) - Dave Crane - Bill Chilson. Total from these folks is \$105. Our bank balance is \$2147.31

396TH BOMB. SQ. - "Doc" Eyer reports a bank accounts balance of \$1172.79 as of 4-01-'07. The following were heard from with dues: **Albert Hettig - Ben Tarnauskas - Bill MacMinn - Nate Mitchell - Paul Bull - Dick Sternberg.**

820TH BOMB. SQ. - See masthead "DUES NEWS" left. Emery Tuttle asked to remind 820th folks that annual dues is \$10.

YOU MAY HAVE NOTICED: The normal publication schedule for *The Crow Flight*...Nov. '06 and Feb. '07... was not met. Reasons were many and varied, like: publisher's procrastinations & body breakdowns, e.g. back and shoulder surgery & recovery; three weeks of "flu" that turned out to be pollen allergies; computer breakdowns; relatives' visits; lots of great games to watch...like my home town World Series Champion St. Louis Cardinals, etc.; and, etc. Kem Sitterley set the schedule at four issues a year when he began the newsletter in 1996. We've maintained that, but the going gets tougher. However, as John Wayne may have said it: "Gird up your groin (or is it loin) and get on with it, pilgrim," so will endeavor. Must also extend my apologies to those 47th Sq. dues payers who have not received their 47th Sq. Rosters in a timely manner. The rosters will be forthcoming.

Pat Sternberg was only about five weeks into spinal surgery recovery so was not able to attend our Tucson Reunion. But with her doctor's OK and her blessing, Pat sent Dick and their daughter, Anne, off to Tucson.

Pat made a complete recovery and was her usual perky self during our April visit with her and Dick.

So, it was especially shocking and distressful news from Dick that Pat had suffered a debilitating stroke on the morning of April 3rd, affecting her right side and speech capacities.

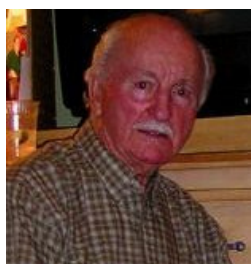
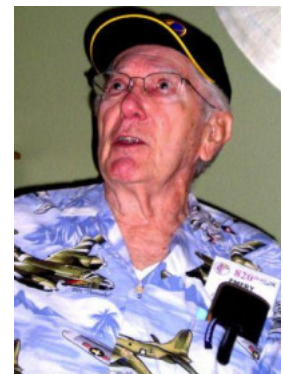
Latest news from Dick, on 5 April, was that Pat had passed a swallow test, indicating she will be able to eat normally and boding well for recovery of her speech facilities.

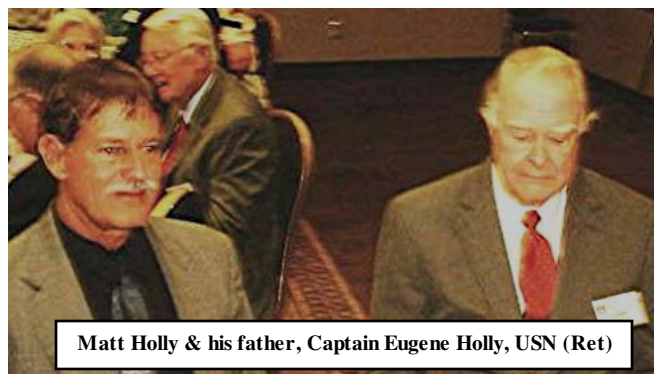
Your prayers for Pat's recovery will be most welcomed.

Contact Information: Dick & Pat Sternberg
Tel. (561) 733-9064 4581 Catamaran Cl.
Boynton Beach, FL 33436

Don Haskell's 41st Memorial Web Site continues to be visited by net surfers looking for information concerning 41st Gp. members. Once again, we must thank our site manager, **Rolf Grandstaff** and our site provider, **Sean Casey**, for their valuable services that are providing a link to us for our progeny. Attendance of both Rolf & Sean at our Tucson Reunion was very special.

A recent visit to the site was rewarded with what looked like, to me, an upgrade of the Tucson Reunion pictures, including many name identities. There are many other links within the site to our 41st Bomb Sq history, as well as current events. So log on and enjoy.





Matt Holly & his father, Captain Eugene Holly, USN (Ret)

L is the "Fearless 47th Seven" – Below is Gene Olsen & Virginia McDavid

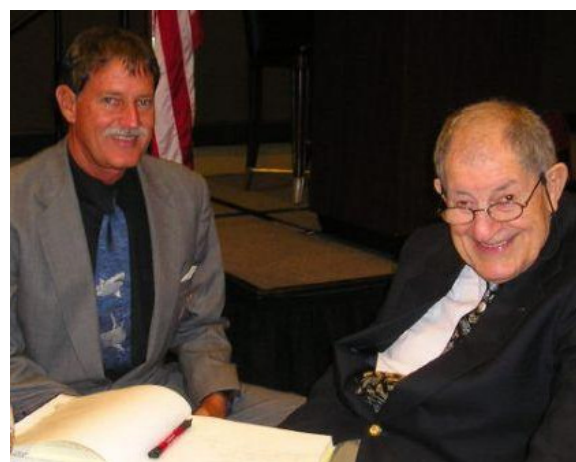


Daughter Anne & Dick Sternberg

Terry & "Doc" - Maj. Gen. & Mrs. David M. Jones, USAF (Ret)



Far L – Craig & Betty Ann Norton & Doc's Intarsia Prize



Matt & Doc

Orr's & General Jones



Bill Vickers – Gutts – Carolyn – Pat – Carl – Jean - Dick



SINGING THE ARMY AIR CORPS SONG