

» NEWS OF THE ASSOCIATION «

1991 Scholarship Ceremony. The awarding of the scholarships for the year 1990 took place April 19, 1991 in Cerignola, Italy in accordance with the selection criteria set by Professor Umberto Albanese. There were no representatives of the Association present this year at the ceremony. In accordance with the criteria set by Professor Albanese, and the Scholarship Committee, awards of \$500.00 each were given to:

- 1) CHIARA MASCIAVEO,
- 2) GIUSEPPE ACELLA,
- 3) MARIA FONSDITURI,
- 4) MARCO DEGIMMIS

Micro Films Printing of the micro films was finally made possible by the generous donations of members in attendance at the Nashville reunion. (See page 2, Torretta Flyer 18 for preliminary report) After the reunion 50% of the films were reproduced successfully into hard copy (8 1/2" by 11" sheets). A new optical technique is being perfected whereby the films are scanned directly from film to computer memory. A firm in Torrance, California has reported encouraging progress using this device.

Italian Tour. Because of the Gulf War's effect on air travel, the Italian tour set for this spring was cancelled. The data base of members interested in this tour will be retained. If demand for a new tour develops April 1992 is suggested (timed to coincide with the presentation of the Scholarship awards).

1991 Reunion. The Kansas City Holiday Inn Crowne Plaza (Formerly the Kansas City Marriott Plaza Hotel) will host this year's reunion September 26-29, 1991. Reunion bulletin to follow for detailed reunion information.

1992 Reunion. The 1992 reunion site has not yet been determined.

T Shirts The Association has a few medium size T shirts left over from the 1990 reunion. These are white "Hanes" 100% cotton shirts with a blue winged version of the the encircled B-24 logo printed on the front.

They are priced at \$15.00 ea. To order use the tear slip page 37.

Back Issues of Aeronautical Magazines Back issues of aeronautical publications, such as Air & Space magazine, Aviation Week, Air Combat, Air Classics, Air Progress to name a few are being solicited by your editor for use in the Flyer.

The All American A spanking new Liberator has been flying around the USA exciting B-24 veterans where ever it stops. One member of the Association suggested we invite this wonderful old bird to our Kansas City reunion. He made a generous contribution toward paying for the expense of bringing the plane to Kansas City.

To bring the aircraft to Kansas City we will need to raise \$4000.00 total. We feel that this goal can be reached with your support. Members planning to attend this year's reunion who want to renew their acquaintance with this grand old lady of the skies may also contribute to the expense fund. Use the tear slip on page 37.

This aircraft, a B-24J-85-CF S/N 44-44052 has been completely restored and carries the name "All American" and was named for another aircraft of the same name from the 461st Bomb Group which on a July 25, 1944, mission shot down 14 enemy fighters.

The original All American was lost over Yugoslavia October 4, 1944. All of the crew survived.

I talked with Bob Collings whose foundation found the aircraft in pieces in an old warehouse in Britain., shipped it to the USA and restored it to Zero time. He even improved the fuel system so the aircraft can be flown with the bomb bay doors shut.

Association members who can contribute information about the original "All American." should contact the editor. (Note photo on back page)

Nashville Reunion Report Close to 400 members and guests attended the 1990 reunion. One third were members coming to a reunion for the first time. Another third were new members, and the last third consisted of members who had been to previous reunions. Two thirds of the guests elected to drive to Nashville while the rest came by air.

The reunion was held at the Nashville Airport Marriott Hotel. One of the activities of the reunion was to see the country music show at the "Grand Old Opry."

At the banquet the colors were brought in by an ROTC company from Vanderbilt University led by Gunnery Sgt. Jacob Wills. The invocation was given by Chaplain (Capt) Ron Lowery of the Tennessee National Guard.

Richard M Kinney, VP Nashville Visitors Bureau, the guest speaker at the banquet presented a slide show on the history of WWII. After dinner-dance music was provided by the band "1941."

Danny Countess, a Nashville country music singer and entertainer was the attraction at the ladies event. His performance was enthusiastically received.



Country singer and entertainer Danny Countess

The warm and sunny fall weather that held for most of the reunion days, the hospitality of the people of Nashville, and hotel staff added to the enjoyment of all who came to Nashville.

We want to thank all of the helpers for their assistance in making the Nashville reunion a success: Doris and Clark Ecton, Ralph Carr, Audrey and Harold Toomey. Also, thanks to Gordon Graham for his efforts in raising the matching funds needed for the microfilm printing, and, of course, a special thanks to our anonymous donor for a most generous contribution, as well as all of the attendees! A preview of the benefits are being reprinted in this issue.