

## News of the Association

### The 1991 Reunion Kansas City

The Kansas City Reunion was another grand get-together that drew 350 members and guests to the Holiday Inn Crowne Plaza Hotel. The warm fall weather made for pleasant walks to the Plaza shopping center and the Nelson-Atkins Museum. Visits to the Crown Center and the Truman Library were enjoyed by many reunion attendees.

The highlight of the reunion was the visit of the "All American," the restored B-24 J. Upon departure the "All American" did a nostalgic fly by around the hotel.

For many members and guests the sight of this old warrior brought an emotional lump to collective throats. Sue and Tony Nahkunst, along with their son, rode the airplane into Kansas City. They had this to say:

Sue Nahkunst: "Wednesday was a day to remember. It was special and totally unforgettable. Thanks to our son Mike who gave us a chance of a lifetime opportunity to ride in a B-24, the All American.

We started our flight from Sedalia, Missouri where a large crowd had gathered to look at the big plane. We climbed up through the forward bomb bay and made our way down the narrow catwalk to our seats, a narrow shelf with 4 flat cushions.

My heart beat faster as the engines started roaring. Once airborne our pilot did a fly by. The noise, excitement, and emotion overwhelmed me. I was flying with my husband and son. We couldn't speak over the noise of the engines. We didn't have to, I was not the only one who cried.

The crew opened up the waist gunner window for pictures and an opportunity to view the beautiful landscape below. All too soon we were over Kansas City, the pilot was doing a fly by over the Municipal airport. Suddenly it was all over, the most incredible experience of my life. It ranks with getting married and having our chil-

dren, Mike and Carol.

It was exciting, emotional, and mostly fun. I felt grateful to my husband and all the other men who flew B-24s, who daily risked their lives so they could return to their waiting families and America would be free. In WWII our husbands left as kids and came home as men and heroes."

From Tony: "Being on a B-24 with Sue and Mike after 46 years was a great experience and watching their expressions when we were taking off, and the flyby was an emotional high for me, and for all of us."

Your editor visited the B-24 that was part of the 1981 reunion in Torrance. I remember approaching the aircraft as if it were a long lost friend and patted the fuselage affectionately below the pilot's sliding window. I too had an emotional moment that was quite unexpected. Several engines were uncowed and I listened to myself describe all of the engine components and what their function was as if reading straight from a manual. It all came back in a flash as if the intervening years melted away. The relationship of men with their machines is real and is similar to man's relationship to living things that is hard to explain..

### Annual Meeting Report

The annual business meeting took place on Saturday morning, September 28, 1991 at 10 AM. After the minutes of the last meeting and financial report were approved and the Scholarship Committee's report was given, the election of directors for the coming year took place. The directors are: Bud Markel, Bea Markel, Frank Valdez, George Christie and Tom Javaruski.

Other matters were discussed at the annual meeting, including current membership status of the Association, a report on the status of the microfilm printing, and a request for an updated membership roster. The chairman announced that negotiations were pending with hotel properties in Dearborn Michigan, as well as Harrisburg Pennsylvania for the site of the 1992 reunion.

The registration gift this year was airmen wings using the Association B-24 logo. Members wishing additional wings can order them from the Association office. Price is \$6.00 including postage.

We are most thankful for the services of Charles Geiss, 824 Squadron and Dick Yungans, 826 Squadron, who were our local hosts. They worked many hours making the contacts necessary for a successful reunion. We also want to thank Clark and Doris Ecton, Harold and Audrey Toomy and

Charles and Agnes Lowell for their work at the registration desk.

### Area Code Changed

The Los Angeles phone listings have grown so large that the area code had to be split once again. The Association's new area code is 310. The new phone number is (310) 316-3330. General Telephone will process calls using the old area code (213) for a short period.

### Our Library

Members who have visited past reunions have seen some of the Association's books that were on display a few years ago. The collection is small but continues to grow as funds become available. New books on the European air war have been added to the Association's library recently. We are not set up to loan out books on a large scale as they are not yet classified. You will be seeing excerpts from some of these books from time to time in the Torretta Flyer where reprint permission has been granted. We do not intend to match the 2nd Air Division Library in Norwich, England in size, but instead have concentrated on aeronautical publications. The gift of aviation books to the library are always in order.

### 1992 Reunion

Negotiations were completed shortly after the Kansas City reunion, and the Marriott Dearborn Inn, Dearborn, Michigan will host the 1992 reunion, Dates are September 24-27, 1992. The bricked main building that comprises the lobby and public rooms is decorated and furnished in exquisite Early American style. Room rate will be \$69.00. The hotel was built by Ford to house air travellers who used the Ford Airline in the late twenties and early thirties, later to become part of United Airlines. The Henry Ford Museum and Greenfield Village is within walking distance of the hotel. The Fairlane Shopping Mall is minutes away, It is a short drive to the Yankee Air Force Museum, as is Windsor, Canada.

### 1993 Reunion

The Harrisburg Marriott, Harrisburg Pennsylvania, has been selected for the 1993 reunion to be held in the fall of that year. It is a short drive to Hershey, PA and to Amish Country. The Civil War battlefield at Gettysburg makes a nice side trip.