

STRAFER



498th SQUADRON

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345th Bomb Group Reunion Association

December, 1984

Texas In 1986

San Antonio Chosen For Next Reunion

As reported elsewhere in this issue of *The Strafer*, the next reunion date will be in the latter part of October, 1986, and the site chosen was San Antonio, Texas.

Bob Fain has accepted the responsibility of Reunion Chairman. Bob currently resides in Mexia, Texas (near Austin). He promises to offer you another grand time . . . an event to remember . . . as was the recent event in Columbus, Ohio.

Bob entered the flying cadets in October, 1940, and eventually joined the 17th Bomb Group in Pendleton, Oregon. He was on maneuvers in Louisiana and South Carolina until December 7, 1941.

The Group moved to Columbia, and about June, 1942, Bob commanded



Bob Fain

the 426 BS from which the cadre of the 501 BS was formed.

He left the 501st in June, 1944, returned to the United States, married, flew with Pan Am for a short time, and accepted a regular commission. He resigned the commission in 1953 to

enter the cotton business in Mexia, Texas.

Bob has been in the grain business, ranching and cattle feed lot business, and since 1973 has restricted his interests to real estate, sales, investment, and appraisals.

The 1986 Reunion Committee, led by Bob Fain, will hold its first meeting in November, 1984. In addition to Bob, the present committee consists of John and Betty Hamner, George and Dee Musket, and Shuler and Mary Elizabeth Gamble. (There is room on the committee for additional volunteers who would enjoy the challenge of helping to organize the Reunion).

The committee hopes to have a progress report ready for the next issue of *The Strafer*.

SQUADRON REPORTS

HEADQUARTERS REPORT

Headquarters Squadron was well represented at Reunion V and those who attended were unanimously of the opinion that it was another great affair and individually expressed the opinion that they were glad to have been present for the various activities.

Most agreed that the highlight of the Reunion was the unveiling and dedication of the 345th Memorial at the Air Force Museum, and it was the feeling of all Headquarters personnel that the monument is a super contribution. Officials at the Air Museum feel that ours is one of, if not the, most outstanding Memorial by a Bomb Group. We all share that feeling.

On Friday evening, Headquarters personnel, some 30 to 35 in number, gathered for a Squadron party and there was much exchanging of experiences shared during WWII with the 345th. The atmosphere was nostalgic and warm with congeniality. The evening's festivity was punctuated by

the visiting "barber shop trio" who entertained the group with a series of very popular songs done in a polished and professional manner.

One of the actions taken at the Saturday morning business session was the addition of a Vice President from Headquarters Squadron to the Association Board of Officers. Charles Metzler was elected to serve the first term as V.P. from Headquarters.

A final opportunity for Headquarters personnel to share experiences and exchange tales of the past was enjoyed

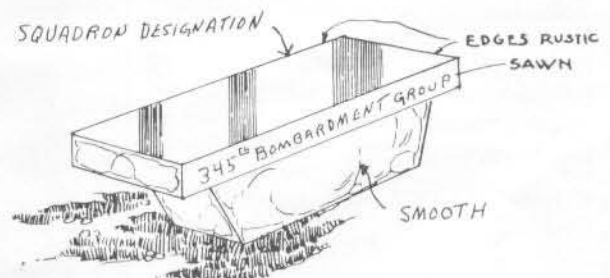
at the final evening's banquet, where each Squadron was seated as a group in pre-arranged areas. Headquarters had the added pleasure of having as guests Clint True's lovely daughter, Pamia, and also Joan Coltharp, (widow of former 345th Grp Comdr Chester Coltharp) and her son, Douglas, currently an officer in the USAF.

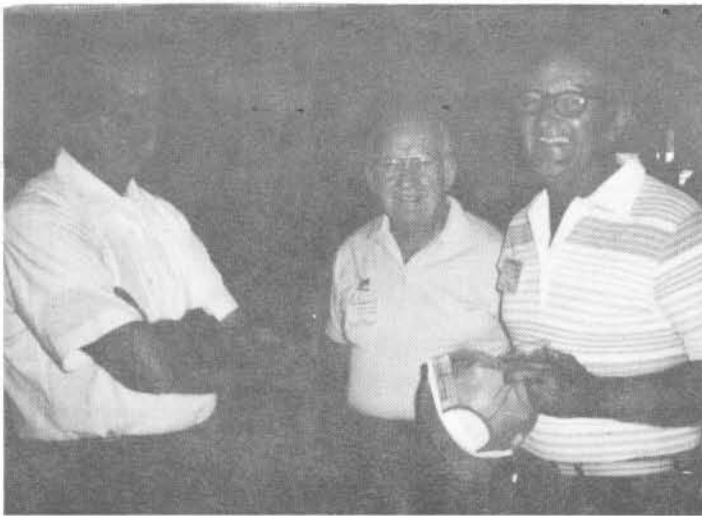
Headquarters wishes to add, individually and as a unit, their congratulations to all who helped make Reunion V a success. Let's root out some more

Continued on Page 4

DESIGN OF PROPOSED MEMORIAL BENCH

(See Story On Inset Pages)





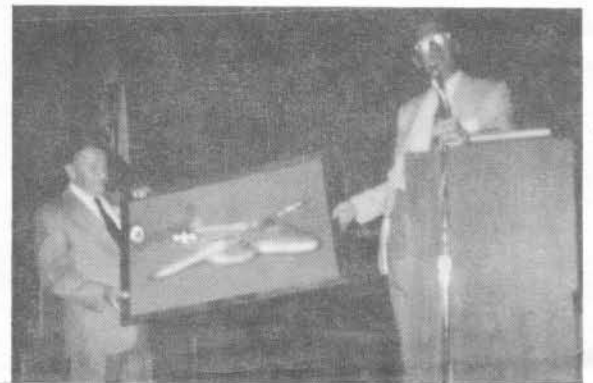
The beginning of a new firm called "Banz, Higgins & Cade".



Mr. and Mrs. Harry Zarfes and Mr. and Mrs. Frank Dugan renew old friendships on opening night.



Membership Kings Jones Burson and Jerry Murphy congratulate each other.

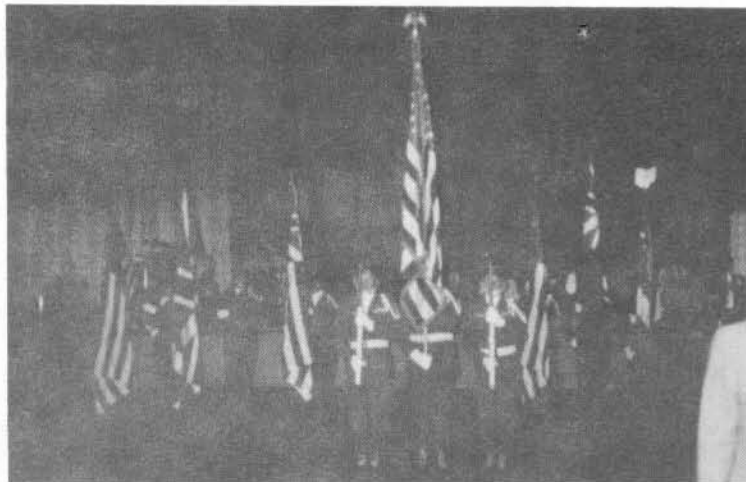


Ed Bina receives an award from Ken McClure for the outstanding job performed as Chairman of the Memorial Committee.

Award For 500th & HQ.

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Bill Witherell



Above: An impressive Flag Ceremony took place before the dinner on Saturday night.
Left: Vic Tatelman and Cliff "Chief Flickering Image" Hanna present a film revue of the 345th B.G.

**345th MEMORIAL FUND
FINANCIAL REPORT
AS OF NOV. 2, 1984
INCOME**

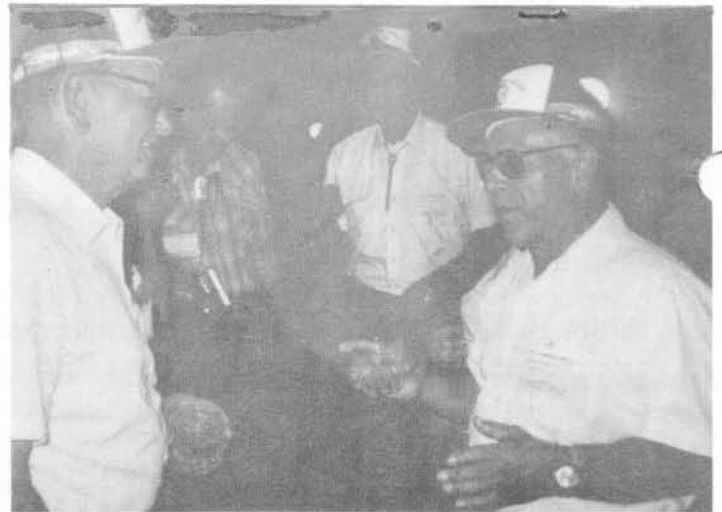
Donations Received	\$14063.00
Interest Earned	354.07
Total Income	\$14417.07

EXPENDITURES

Meirjohan-Wengler Inc.	\$ 5024.00
Bronze work	
Mt. Airy Memorial, Inc.	6598.40
Granite, Memorial, Transportation & Erection	
Loan Repayment to 345th BG	327.12
Reunion Fund To Start Project	
Ed Bina, Transportation, Printing, Typing, Telephone, Mailing, Xerox, etc.	591.89
J & J Construction	600.00
Footer for Memorial	
345th BG Reunion Fund	250.00
Repayment Of Loan For Architect Fees	
345th BG Reunion Fund Repayment For Memorial Video Tape Expenses	308.20
Ed Bina, Expenses	114.20
Total Expenditures	\$13813.81
Balance In The Bank	\$ 603.26



A most welcome sight greeted the 345th Reunion members upon their arrival at Stouffer's/Dublin.



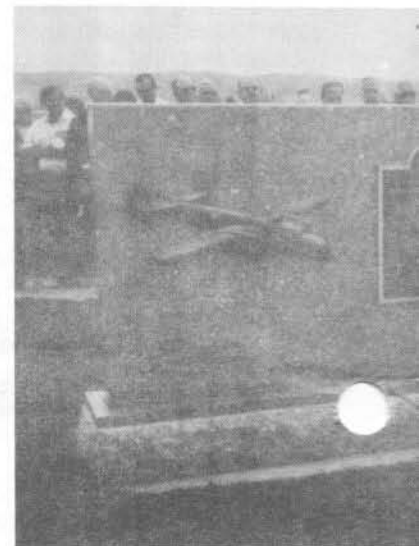
Bob Fain and his buddies talk it up (as well as drink it up).



Our General (Big Ben) Fridge begins the Memorial Dedication Ceremony at the Air Force Museum.



Chaplain Ed Karnis (499th) leads the prayer at the Memorial Dedication.



Above right: The 345th Bomb Group Memorial at the Air Force Museum immediately after its unveiling.

Below: Even the back side of the 345th Bomb Group Memorial is impressive.

**REUNION COMMITTEE
FINANCIAL STATEMENT**

INCOME 1/83 - 11/2/84

Contributions	\$ 7512.00
Life Members @ \$100.00	2000.00
Dues (1984)	1155.00
Book Sales (\$5 per Warpath)	1930.00
Interest Earned	689.74
	<hr/>
	\$13286.74

EXPENSES

CORC (Mailing, Labels, etc)	\$ 1555.41
Phil Rack (Strafer)	1821.42
Telephone	530.30
Postage (stamps)	200.00
500th B Sqd (Tully refund)	100.00
Larry Hickey (video tape & film)	520.35
ACBL Building Fund	40.00
Ken McClure (expenses/travel)	382.42
	<hr/>
	\$ 5346.42
Gain	\$ 7944.32
Balance From Reunion Funds	1176.48
Cash In Bank	\$ 9120.80
Reunion Hospitality Room	5195.00
Balance In Bank	<hr/>
	\$ 3925.80

(There are no outstanding bills from the Reunion).



**A Special
Cliff Hanna**

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 Chief Flicker
 Bold Warrior
 of the Apache

Squadron Reports

Continued from page 1
of those "lost, strayed or stolen" former Air Apaches and get them on the list for San Antonio in 1986.

Maury Eppstein

498th

BEST REUNION EVER

The 1984 Reunion in Columbus was a roaring success with 67 members in attendance (127 with family included). We missed some members who we had seen at the Colorado Springs Reunion.

Everyone was pleased with the accommodations, tours and entertainment . . . the Apache billboard greeting us as we arrived . . . the trip to Wright-Patterson for the Memorial ceremony . . . the get-togethers with old friends.

Henry J. Reynolds was selected to represent the 498th as a new V.P. Henry came to Columbia, S.C. in September 1942 after attending armament school at Lowry Field. He became a Squadron supply clerk and joined the 498th in November. He was later named Supply Sergeant. After being discharged, Henry started his own company, and after 30 years, sold it and is now semi-retired. He keeps his "Apache touch" as Group Commander of Civil Air Patrol in four counties, is chairman of the local planning board, and still flies a Cessna 172XP on search and rescue missions.

499th

BATS OUT OF HELL

The "Bats Out Of Hell" enjoyed the best reunion ever with over 150 present. The trip to the Air Force Museum for the dedication of the 345th BG Memorial was the highlight of the reunion.

The 499th's own Ed Karnis, now an Army Chaplain, traveled the furthest distance, coming from Germany to participate in the ceremonies. Bill Hilton, also from the 499th, wrote the poem for the program.

Let's all start making plans for the San Antonio Reunion. See you there.

Charles L. Shell

500th

ROUGH RAIDERS RIDE HIGH

The fifth reunion of the 345th Bomb Group Association, in the opinion of this writer and all others, was the best ever. The 500th Bomb Squadron was well represented with approximately one hundred four members (including family & friends) in attendance. For some, it was the very first time. It is always great to feel that we are still moving forward.

345th B. G. Reunion Committee
2770 E. Main St.
Columbus, Ohio 43209

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

KENNETH GASTBER
1730 W ROBINSON
NORMAN OK 73069

FIRST CLASS MAIL
U. S. POSTAGE
PAID
COLUMBUS, OH 43200
PERMIT NO. 614

In a Reunion that had so many highlights and outstanding events, the most noteworthy had to be the Dedication of the 345th Bomb Group Memorial at the Air Force Museum. The 500th can be proud of being a part of that Group and proud of the leadership and workmanship that produced the monument.

It is also worthy of note that the planning finally did really give the ladies due respect; not just a chance to work. It is believed that all general interest events will be covered in *The Strafer*, therefore, will go on to the 500th's Dinner.

The Squadron event, of course, was our Dinner and short program at the KAHIKI restaurant. It was an outstanding effort by Mickey Pavkovich in getting busses, tables, reservations, and toastmaster all together. Sid Strassheim is in his element as toastmaster. We were under strictures of time, but it was an evening which will be remembered with nostalgia and smiles.

Another plus for the efforts of the committees was the "finding" of another dozen members of our squadron. Our thanks go to all those hard working officials and committee members whose efforts resulted in a long-to-be-remembered truly successful 345th Bomb Group Reunion.

Fred Moore

501st

DUBLIN REUNION BEST EVER

The 345th Bomb Group Reunion, 1984, in Dublin, Ohio surpassed all expectations for all the 501st Squadron members attending! And we salute Ken McClure and the teams who pulled it all together. Jeff Blackmon and Ed Bina from the 501st were prime movers on that team. The Stouffer Hotel was truly warmed by the emotions and good will of the 345th Bomb Group!

The 501st was represented by 96 men, of which 30 were singles, 66 were couples and we had eight guests. That's the largest group yet for the 501st, and surpasses the other Squadrons in attendance.

Many of those attending put the dedication of the Memorial at Wright Patterson as the high point of the Reunion. Bill Stone put his feeling in just a few words: "The Memorial is a class act. We should be humble and proud of the memory represented by such a magnificent presentation."

The Squadron dinner Friday night at the DCS Officers club was well attended, the food was good, and there was much laughter and fun. The 501st elected Jeff Blackmon, President; W. D. Helvey, Vice President; Virginia Bosworth (Al's wife), Secretary/Treasurer. A great band played music of the 40's until midnight.

Many of the letters mentioned the Group dinner, and maybe Rico Pallotto said it best: "The one single experience that made the greatest impact Marjorie and me was the presentation of the colors Saturday evening. The whole meaning of our being together and memorializing our great achievements somehow becomes embodied in our flag, especially when one can appreciate the historical significance of it in terms of the many sacrifices Americans have made throughout our existence as a nation. It feels good to be reminded by the special presentation made to us how great it is to be an American."

One or two more comments, one from Gordon Ball: "You know, you people are something else! I only had two combat missions with the 501st and you treat me like I was with you from the start. Sometimes I feel like an imposter, but then I say to myself "Heck, I was with the best "Band of Brothers" in World War II."

And from D. W. Helvey: "You beautiful people, ALL. The thing that impressed me the most was after over forty years - I did not see one old person at this reunion. There must be that fountain of Youth out there some place."

As for the 501st - we laughed and we cried and we laughed some more. Now we're busy looking for more buddies to join us in San Antonio in 1986!

Al Bosworth

UCT TRAVEL SERVICE
P.O. BOX 159019
COLUMBUS, OH 43215

Local 614-224-2393
USA 800-848-0123
Ohio 800-282-0295

345th BOMB GROUP
SOUTH PACIFIC TOUR

The following is a tentative itinerary for an up-coming trip to the South Pacific designed just for the 345th Bomb Group. The price will vary depending on the size of the group and the date of the tour. Final itineraries and prices will be sent when your coupon is received.

Day 1	Depart San Francisco (Used as a sample --- we will arrange travel from your home city.)	
Day 2	Arrive Sydney, Australia	
Day 3, 4, 5	Sydney	
Day 6, 7	Townsville	
Day 8, 9	Brisbane	
Day 10-15	New Guinea	
Day 15	Depart New Guinea for home	<u>OR</u>
Day 15-20	Manila, Philippines	Optional tour
Day 21	Depart Manila for home	<u>OR</u>
Day 15-20	New Zealand	Optional tour
Day 21	Depart New Zealand for home	

Final brochure will show tour pricing as Australia and New Guinea together and then optional tours at the end to New Zealand or the Philippines. If you wish other post- or pre-tour stopovers, just advise UCT Travel Service when you receive the actual brochures and itineraries.

If you have any comments regarding the tentative itinerary, please send these with the coupon below at your earliest convenience. Itineraries will be finalized in the near future!

Clip and mail to: Ken McClure, 345th B.G. Reunion Assoc., 2770 E. Main St., Columbus, Ohio 43209.

NAME _____ Squadron # _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY/STATE/ZIP _____

PHONE Home: () _____ Business: () _____

I am particularly interested in traveling: (Circle one)

Oct/Nov 1985 Mar/Apr 1986 Jun/Aug 1986 Oct/Nov 1986 Other _____

**MINUTES OF THE BUSINESS MEETING OF THE 345TH BOMB GROUP REUNION ASSOCIATION
HELD SEPTEMBER 8, 1984, STAUFFER'S DUBLIN HOTEL, COLUMBUS, OHIO**

The meeting was called to order by President Ben Fridge at 0830.

A letter from General Crabb's widow, Eleanor, was read by President Fridge.

Ken McClure gave a comprehensive report on the current financial status of the Association. Included were figures on donations by members (\$7412) and the status of expenses in the "Attitude Adjustment" room (Hospitality Suite). At the time of the report the cost of the Hospitality Suite exceeded the amount budgeted by some \$3,000, a considerable figure. Final figures were not available at the time of the report.

Ed Bina gave a report on the 345th Group Memorial. Donations totaled \$13,203, which, with interest, totaled \$13,410.59. The expenditures for granite, the lettering on the back surface, miscellaneous costs, etc., brought that total to \$12,540.00. Figures for funds on hand in the bank and for unpaid bills were not recorded when given, but the balance on hand was \$217.80. Additional funds for the Memorial were collected at the reunion.

There was a general discussion on the subject of adding matching granite benches to the Memorial, one bench for each squadron, two at the front and two at the rear. A vote was taken and the membership voted in favor of proceeding with the plans for the addition of the four benches as outlined.

Bill Cather gave an informative report on the creation and purpose of the 5th Air Force Memorial Association. After some discussion, Bert Rosenbaum moved and Bill Darwin seconded the motion that the 345th Bomb Group participate in this project. The motion specified that the participation by the 345th be as a Group, not by individuals, and that it not exceed an expenditure of \$500.00.

Association Secretary Maury Eppstein then read a proposed amendment to the 345th Association Constitution and By-Laws that: "*Article VII, Section 1 be amended to include a Vice President from Headquarters Squadron, making a total of 5 Vice Presidents, rather than 4*". Following discussion, it was voted upon and passed by the membership.

Secretary Eppstein then read a proposal that had been submitted which would, if accepted, become an addition to the Constitution and By-Laws of the Association. The proposal was that: "*All former Group Commanders, all former Squadron Commanders and all past Presidents of the Association shall constitute a permanent Board of Directors of the Association. The function of this Board will be to oversee the activities of the Association and to assure that the high standards of the 345th Bomb Group are maintained. The person serving on this Board who was senior in rank while serving in the 345th Bomb Group shall serve as Chairman of the Board*".

Discussion followed, and it was suggested that the body be called The Board of Trustees. It was further suggested that this proposed addition to the Constitution and By-Laws be outlined in the next edition of "*The Strafer*" and have a vote taken by returns in the mail. This was followed by additional discussion, and it was decided that the matter be voted upon at the current meeting. A vote of the membership was taken on the motion "*To add to the Association Constitution and By-Laws the formation of a Board of Trustees*" as outlined above. The motion was carried.

Discussion then turned to the subject of the location and date of the next reunion. Bob Fain made a presentation favoring San Antonio, Texas, as the site, and indicated that the latter part of October would be most desirable from a weather standpoint. It was the general consensus of the membership that the next reunion be held in 1986.

Additional suggested sites included Myrtle Beach, S.C.; Washington, D.C.; Kansas City, MO; Columbia, S.C., etc. It was pointed out that when any locale was suggested, specific consideration should be given to the availability of 345th personnel in the given area and their individual willingness to assist in performing the duties required. After all discussion on the subject was completed, a vote was taken and San Antonio was selected as the locale for the 1986 reunion, and that the definite date was to be set in the latter part of October of that year, said date to be announced as soon as possible.

The next order of business was the election of officers for the Association. Bob Fain, Ben Fridge and Ken McClure were nominated for President. Bob Fain declined the nomination and Ben Fridge was elected by acclamation. Ken McClure was the only nominee for Secretary-Treasurer and was elected by acclamation.

The Vice-Presidents elected by their respective Squadrons were announced as follows:

498th - Henry J. Reyns, Box 281, Beattie Road, Rock Tavern, NY 12575.

499th - Charles L. Schell, 106 S.E. Fenway, Bartlesville, OK 74003.

500th - Fred Moore, 899 Lulu Avenue, Las Vegas, NV 89119.

501st - Elbert H. Bosworth, 839 W. 21st St., San Bernardino, CA 92405.

Hqs. - Charles O. Metzler, 1019 8 Mile Road, Cincinnati, OH 45230.

Ken McClure announced that Debbie Frazier would act as 345th Bomb Group Reunion Committee permanent contact and arranger of conventions.

Ed Bina outlined procedure for requesting/obtaining the Philippine Liberation Medal from the Philippine government and advised that appropriate information would be posted on the bulletin board in the hotel lobby.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1055.

Respectfully submitted,

(signed)

Maury Eppstein
Secretary

**Please refer to the other side of this page
for information regarding a proposed
345th BG "Tour Of The Pacific"**