

306th Echoes



DR THURMAN SHULLER
BOX 908
MC ALESTER, OK 74501

306th Bombardment Group Association

Units at Thurleigh:

40th Combat Bomb Wing
306th Bombardment Group
367th Bombardment Squadron
368th Bombardment Squadron
369th Bombardment Squadron
423rd Bombardment Squadron
876th Chemical Co. (Det. A)
2099th Fire Fighters
204th Finance Section
982nd Military Police Co. (Det. A)
1628th Ordnance Supply
& Maintenance Company
527th Army Postal Unit
1121st Quartermaster Company
(Det. A)
352nd Service Squadron
4th Station Complement Squadron
449th SubDepot



Officers elected at Omaha to guide the 306th during the next year: William M. Collins, Jr., treasurer; Russell A. Strong, secretary; Ralph Bordner, president, and John L. Ryan, vice president.

'83 Reunion 'Best Ever,' Says Crowd

It's hard to begin to tell a story of the 8th reunion of the 306th Bomb Group!

People began arriving in earnest on Wednesday, Sept. 22, and the flow increased significantly Thursday. By Friday everyone seemed to be in place, but still they came on Saturday.

Some came for a day, some for the whole period, but to a man, and his wife, it was the greatest event of its kind they had ever attended.

All had plaudits for Judge Donald Ross and his committee in putting together the event: the hotel was excellent, food was good, entertainment was great, and the dialogues and monologues were endless and entertaining.

The only sour note heard around Omaha's Marriott was that there were not more 306th veterans there to enjoy the event, but particularly to meet old friends, to make new friends, and to relive those days of 40 years ago.

Ted Harkin set the distance record coming from England to be at the reunion; others came from the far corners of the nation, and a newcomer or two previously unidentified showed up from Omaha. Those close by checked in for the first time, and such veterans of these endeavors—Earl Schwab, Bill Collins, and Ralph Bordner—have hardly missed an event since Miami eight years ago.

Blue 306th hats, squadron emblems, parts of uniforms, books, pictures and all kinds of memorabilia were to be seen. Through the courtesy of the Boeing Military Airplane Co., Wichita, (To page 2)

Ft. Worth Set To Host 306th Next October

At press time for this edition, the Fort Worth 1984 reunion committee was meeting to begin its work for the next meeting of the 306th.

Tentatively, the gathering place will be the Green Oaks Inn on I-20 on the west side of Fort Worth, and in close proximity to Carswell Air Force Base.

Reginald Robinson, 368th, is serving as chairman of the event, and his committee at this point includes Ted Boswell, Chris Christensen, Al Clark, Grafford Jennings, Robert Riordan, Jerry Wiley, John Buie, Malcolm Phillips and Guy Lateano.

An initial meeting of the group
(Turn to page 8)

Overacker Dies

Col. Charles B. (Chip) Overacker, commanding officer of the 306th Bomb Group from 15 March 42 to 4 January 43, died 26 October in Denver, Colorado, after a long bout with emphysema and lung cancer. A memorial in the name of the 306th Bomb Group has been sent to the Colorado chapter, American Lung Association. Individuals wishing to make their own gifts may send them to 1600 Race St., Denver, CO 80206. A tribute to Col. Overacker and a picture story of his long Air Force career will appear in the next issue of Echoes.

Shuller Thrills Banquet with 306th Stories

"This is the first time I've had so many 306th men together since I gave them a VD lecture," said Dr. Thurman Shuller as he opened his remarks at the 8th annual reunion dinner in Omaha.

Serving as the first group combat surgeon, and staying with the 306th until August of 1943, Dr. Shuller had many recollections of those early and frustrating days in England, when problems were enormous, resources few, and everyone was learning new jobs.

He talked about S/Sgt. Arthur E. Chapman, 368th gunner who was shot through the chest on the first mission, critically wounded, and who became the first air evacuee in the European Theatre, being flown from Thurleigh to Oxford for treatment, and where the gunner died a few days later.

"We didn't really know how to
(Turn to page 2)

A Thank You!

The men of the 306th and their wives extend their heartiest congratulations and thanks to Gen. Bennie Davis and the personnel at Offutt AFB for contributing so much to our reunion. We appreciate the time and effort exerted on our behalf both before and during the reunion. You made us doubly proud of the USAF today, and especially those who fly the big ones!



A portion of the Fort Worth-1984 committee, left to right: Robert P. Riordan, Grafford Jennings, Ted Boswell, Reginald Robinson and Maurice Christensen.

'83 Reunion 'Best Ever'

(From page 1)

Lionel Alford, 369th co-pilot, president, four large photographs of 306th planes were in each of the four squadron rooms and many small plane pictures were also to be viewed.

Registration ran smoothly and many items of 306th interest were available in a room near the registration desk. Those who had lost a treasured squadron patch were able to replace it. "First Over Germany" was in much evidence.

From lunch on Thursday the crowd grew quickly to more than 230 men and about 175 wives. That evening we boarded buses for the dinner and rodeo at Ak-Sar-Ben an indoor event that won new fans for rodeo riders.

Friday morning began tours to Strategic Air Command headquarters. A refurbished B-17, with triangle H's on it stood outside the museum, and a recent painting of the Rose of New York in flight hung inside. Gen. Bennie Davis, CINCSAC, greeted each of three tour groups at the post theatre. The morning group had lunch at the Officers' Club, and the two afternoon groups came together there for a banquet.

Gen. and Mrs. Davis were guests for the evening, along with Gen. Curtis LeMay. Both were presented with copies of "First Over Germany," and Gen. Davis was formally presented with the Rose of York painting. These presentations were made by Russell A. Strong, and Bert Perlmutter presented the two men with first day covers of the Medal of Honor stamp, both autographed by the 306th's own Snuffy Smith. Dancing followed the brief program.

Saturday morning squadron meetings were held, and these were followed by a Group business meeting. At this, Ralph Bordner was re-elected president; John L. Ryan, vice president; William M.



The 306th Bombardment Group Historical Association: Ralph Bordner, president; John L. Ryan, vice president; Russell A. Strong, secretary; and William M. Collins, Jr., treasurer.

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Collins, treasurer and Strong, secretary.

Following a presentation by Reginald Robinson, it was voted to have the 1984 reunion on the last weekend in October at Fort Worth, Texas.

A cocktail party opened the evening festivities, during which time members of the four squadrons were called out to get their pictures taken.

The 306th Banquet was held at the Marriott, with more than 400 people participating. Russell Strong was the Master of Ceremonies for the event. Ralph Bordner offered the invocation, and that was followed by the pledge of allegiance.

Special guests included Lt. Gen. James Keck, former deputy commander, SAC, and a B-24 pilot who flew two tours with the 8th, and Maj. Gen. James S. Cheney, former 306th group navigator, and judge advocate general of the Air Force before retirement.

With the conclusion of remarks by Dr. Thurman Shuller, the 8th annual reunion of the 306th came to a close, to reconvene October 25, 26, 27, 1984 in Fort Worth, Texas.

Shuller

(From page 1)

treat frostbite," said Shuller in recounting the shortcomings and the medical problems of this new experience in warfare.

He also mentioned that combat fatigue was an ever present problem that was never fully understood by medical men, and continued to be a problem throughout the war.

Dr. Shuller had been an early advocate of a set combat tour of 25 missions, a factor that did not become a fixture of 8th Air Force experience until early April of 1943. It may well have come about because of a letter written by Dr. Shuller to higher headquarters pointing out the problems of sustained aerial flights and the need for a goal for the men. Once it was established at 25, T/Sgt. Michael Roskovitch became the first man in the 8th to complete a tour.

Dr. Shuller continued to tell other tales of the men of the 306th, bringing to the audience laughter, sadness and new stories about the men of the 306th.

Dr. Shuller is, and has been for many years, a pediatrician in McAlester, OK.

Also present from the 306th medical staff to hear him were Dr. H. Deane Munal, now living in Texas; Dr. Samuel Simpson, living in Idaho, and William Houlihan from the Detroit area.

Quotes About Omaha

We want to thank you and your committee for a great reunion. This was definitely the best for us in four reunions.

Ruth and Bill Houlihan

We want to thank you for all the effort and care that you exerted to make the 306th reunion such a huge success. It was truly one of the most memorable experiences of our lives.

Parley and Virginia Small

We just want to thank you for the courtesy and effort and work you did to make the reunion the best ever. We all had such a great time and the activities you had planned for us were super. Hope to see you next year.

Florence and Leo Van Deurzen

Dorothy and I wish to thank you and the efficient group of people who assisted—for the most enjoyable and well-run reunion yet. Hotel, food and events were obviously the result of good planning.

John M. Howard

I wish to commend you on the fine, no, the most wonderful reunion you organized for us. My wife was extremely impressed (her first reunion).

A. L. Visconti

You are personally responsible for providing my wife and me one of the most enjoyable weekends we can remember! Never have we seen an affair of this kind as well organized, go so smoothly, and especially for the number of people involved. We are already making plans for Fort Worth in 1984!

Gail & Jack Schmidt

You, Janice, your family, the committee of Ralph Beach, Ralph Bordner, Bill Collins, Norman Johnson and Russ Strong did a magnificent job in hosting the 306th reunion. Your planning and attention to every detail resulted in such a great get together.

James M. Venable, Jr.

I would like to express my appreciation for the fine job all you people who had any part in the planning and scheduling of the 306th Group at Omaha did. My only other experience was the 8th AF reunion at Cincinnati, and I thought there was no comparison. Omaha was great.

Forest W. Goodwill

I certainly enjoyed the meeting in Omaha and am already looking forward to the one next year.

Dennis A. Sharkey, Jr.

Thank you for all your effort in helping to maintain the sense of unity and camaraderie of the 306th. It was a great reunion!

Robert P. Riordan

Three contingents of 306th veterans and their spouses visited the Memorial chapel at Offutt Air Force Base for memorial services on Friday of the reunion. It was not possible to handle everyone in one or two groups, and they were split into three at the base.

Col. Rice, Offutt chaplain, conducted the impressive service, speaking on "Failsafe Fallacy."

The 3902nd Air Base Wing honor guard presented the colors for the service, and music included "The Star Spangled Banner," "Oh Beautiful for Spacious Skies," "God Bless America" and "The Air Force Hymn."

The chapel visit also afforded people an opportunity to view the beautiful stained glass windows, and in them is designated the 306th Strategic Wing, successor organization to the 306th Bomb Group.

More Issues of 'Echoes'

Here's my help for future issues of Echoes!

I enclose \$_____ to support the production and mailing of the 306th Echoes. I also want to support continuing reunion activities for those who once served.

Name _____

Address _____

Mail to: Wm. M. Collins, Jr.
2973 Heatherbrae Drive
Poland, OH 44514

George Paris, in a Humorous Vein, Looks At Turbulent Combat

It's probably in the records somewhere showing that I arrived at Thurleigh early in 1943 and was promptly assigned to the 368th "Eager Beaver" squadron. I believe I arrived on a Tuesday and was processed in, assigned flight gear, quarters, etc. I do not recall having an opportunity for any local flying in time to go on a mission the following Saturday but I do recall that the 368th put up seven planes for the mission and only one returned!! Six out of seven . . . that loss, so sudden and unexpected to a new arrival like myself gave me immediate reservations that few of us would last to complete the 25-mission requirement then existing. Needless to say why, I became a Flight Commander on my first mission.

John Regan was my Squadron Commander and Pappy Odle was our Operations Officer . . . two fine men . . . and John was an ebullient, enthusiastic outgoing fellow . . . a great commander whom we could easily relate to and follow. I remember well his taking whomever was available into town for a beer or two at the local pub, all of us piled into the back of the vehicle, cracking jokes, and usually ending up in song, especially on the way back to the base.

Joseph Hank Belser was my roommate most all of my tour over there. He came in after I did and I recall his arrival and unpacking of his gear. Joe had brought over with him a huge cardboard container which held about 144 cartons of Lucky Strike cigarettes . . . so we never ran out of smokes . . . now that's the kind of roomie to have. I think Joe was a 1st Lt. then as was I, but we were promoted soon to Capt. . . . shall I say through attrition. Later he became a general in the AF and though I was out of the service for a couple of years when I went with an airlines and then subsequently back into the Air Force as a career, strangely I never ran into him again.

Soon, we were flying missions over to the submarine pens on the French coast and of course, we encountered heavy flak from the I.P. into the target and turning off to return, and we seemed to always have the GAF fighter planes up there to harass and shoot the hell out of us. They were good . . . excellent fliers . . . and well do I remember their barreling from twelve o'clock right at our lead aircraft, and on through our formation. The Spitfires and Hurricanes did not have the range to escort us very far into the English Channel at that time and when they were with us, or picked us up on the way back, we were never bothered with the enemy.

So we were shot at and shot up a lot and we watched our close friends get shot down. Alden "Dopey" Mann was a close friend of mine and we had been together thru phase training and checkout back in the States and had gone over to England together in Hunter Harris' Provisional group, ferrying B-17's from West Palm thru Belem, Brazil, Ascension Island, Dakar, Marrakech, and on to England. I was not on the mission when he was killed but I did get back to visit his family when I returned from the ETO.

At one time I tried to keep count of the missions wherein we returned on three engines but after 12 or 13 instances of that nature, I lost interest. It just didn't seem important after a while. I do remember coming back on two engines one time from some target in Germany. While I can't be specific as to what happened, I suppose it was either flak or fighters or both, and we had to drop out of the formation and begin a long gradual descent with a lot of trim cranked in, back toward England. We tried to keep our speed up and at the same time nurse the two remaining good engines (both on the left side) while sweating out being attacked by GAF birds that might spot us. We made it o.k. and I remember concentrating on trying to make my smoothest landing ever when we finally got back to Thurleigh. When you straggle back like that and you know that the fellows are out there watching, you want to make the best show possible, don't you?

On a mission . . . one of those "milk runs" . . . to the French coast, possibly Brest, we were attacked by Goering's yellow nosed ME-109's which were damned good at coming out of the sun and hitting you before you were aware of what was happening. I think that I was leading the high Squadron when these two fighters came from two o'clock high firing their nose cannons . . . one of the shots tore into our No. 2 engine nacelle . . . I recall looking out at the torn hole and thinking boy, just a couple of feet further back would have placed that shot right into the cockpit and into me! The shot severed an oil line and we lost oil pressure before we could feather the prop, which began to wind up, really running away. We were still under attack but had no alternative but to slow down, pull out of the formation and drift back, watching the Group pull away from us. The prop soon sheared free from the crankshaft and began freewheeling, winding up even more, and we had to slow down even more. Fortunately, for us, the fighters must have run low on fuel and didn't give chase to us . . . otherwise we wouldn't have had a chance. We headed for the nearest landing strip on the British coast, in the Dover area, and I started sweating out the landing, knowing that when we landed, the prop, because of its rotation, would hit the ground and bounce back up to the fuselage right under the cockpit. We cleared the nose of the navigator and bombardier and I tried to bring it in as smoothly as possible. But when we touched down at near stalling speed, the prop spun free, hit the ground, and bounced back up into the fuselage, one blade cutting

through and hitting the mounting, stanchion of the pilot's seat, throwing me up against the cockpit ceiling . . . I thought for a moment that I was knocked out! The prop continued on back gashing the left underside of the fuselage and finally ripping into the left horizontal stabilizer. We were relieved that no one was injured.

Of the following two incidents, I'm not certain which occurred first but they happened during the latter part of my tour:

We had taken a plane up in Edinburgh for some unremembered reason, ran'd there, and departed the following morning. There was a huge old castle up there right in the middle of the city and I believe that some of the members of the crew wanted to take some snapshots of it. At any rate, I think that we flew around it fairly low, maybe at the level of the upper structures or somewhere near that, making several passes in close proximity to the castle.

Then we continued on our way back to Thurleigh and landed. A short time after that, Major Williams, our Group Operations officer, called a pilot's meeting in the mission briefing room. When we were all assembled, he announced that he had received a dispatch from the Royal Air Force or the Air Ministry stating that one of our aircraft had violated the airspace over Edinburgh on such and such a date, and did we know anything about it. No one volunteered any information as I recall and he then proceeded to state that they had been able to check back over the flight records and discern the probable violator, and at that point, he addressed me and of course, I stood up. He then asked me something to the equivalent of "what the hell were you doing flying that low over Edinburgh?" Oh, he had me and I could only respond that I was adhering to the flight regulations which require that you maintain 500 feet separation from the clouds, Sir! At that, the entire assembly burst into laughter and I turned about two shades past red. Well, he let me off the hook on that one, and I never did learn how he answered the official inquiry.

Recently in the 306th Echoes, someone wrote in and mentioned that he recalled that either myself or Capt. Joe Belser had celebrated completing their twenty-fifth mission by knocking down the flagpole buzzing with a B-17. I can give you the facts on that.

On that particular day, I had taken a B-17 up for some local flying to "slow-time" an engine that had just been installed on the plane. We flew around for a while completing the slowtiming and then headed back to the base. A favorite, and I must say now as an old pilot, reckless manuever was to let down to tree-top level a few miles away from the base and approach the base on a heading that would bring you in directly towards the control tower. Once you cleared the trees and reached the perimeter of the field, you then dropped the plane down to where the props just cleared the grass and headed straight for the tower!

Obviously, the people in the tower could then see this airplane coming at them at or below their level, and would hightail down the stairway to get out of the tower. Really, this happened many times! On this particular day, and I do believe that I had 23 or 24 missions under my belt at that time, I pulled that stunt but unfortunately held the plane down too long so that when I pulled up, the underside of my left wing struck one of the two poles in front of and below tower level and snapped off the top portion of the pole. The broken portion sailed back past the tower and slammed into a corrugated tin building just aft of the tower, making a noise loud enough that it could be heard in the Group Commander's office.

I had heard the collision of the pole with the underside of the wing so I knew I should get down on the ground and assay the damage as soon as possible. I requested clearance for landing and came on in, taxiing to our hardstand. As I pulled in, I saw the commander's staff car parked with two figures standing nearby.

I knew immediately that I was in for it and after cutting engines, I got out to find Col. Robinson, I believe, and Major Williams, examining the underside of the wing. The B-17 was a well constructed airplane and when I looked up I could see only a relatively small dent in the underside a little distance from the leading edge. I saluted the Colonel who turned to me and asked "Just what do you think you were doing up there, Captain?" and I replied that I was slowtiming an engine, Sir! Colonel Robbje just turned away from me and said, "You report to me in my office in ten minutes!"

Yes, Sir, I replied. When I reported to the Colonel he proceeded to give me a royal chewing out, a rather lengthy one reviewing all aspects of the matter. Then he called Major Williams in and instructed him to ground me for a month and directed that I spend every day in the control tower for that period. That meant to me that it would delay finishing my tour, that I couldn't fly for a month, but it was much better than an official reprimand or courtmartial. Besides, I had no choice.

I think that for the next month as I whiled away the time in the control tower, I must have read every book on the base. And to top it off, while I was serving my penance, some damn-fool of a pilot had the audacity to buzz the tower again. I never found out who it was because I was too busy running down the stairs, and when I got outside, he was out of sight still flying low. Must have been an old buddy of mine from Bassingbourne.

Those Who Were at Omaha



367th Squadron

Front row: John Bloom, George Roberts, Walter Johnson, Robert Cox, Alexander Clarke, Robert Maxwell, Vincent Kiely, Robert C. Williams, John L. Ryan, Herbert McVicar, Patrick Walsh, Myron Sorden, Gus Lamb, Joseph Miller, Walter Coons, James Lenaghan. Second row: Roy Stroud, Ed Leahy, Russell Strong, George Klucick, John Corcoran, Richard Wallace, Howard Balcom, Ed Ronczy, Jack Schmidt, Al LaChasse, Fred Rector, Joe Hammer, Tom Chandler,

Robert Vickers, Toode Motley and Thomas Witt. Third row: Maurice Pickett, Raymond Fortin, John Grimm, Bartlett Smith, Wilson Elliott, Parley D. Small, John C. Conlin, Archie Nesbitt, Edward Stevens, H. V. Roeder, John Dexter, Charles Vondrachek, D. A. Heon, Robert Hermann, Ray Fields and Norman Johnson. Fourth row: Fred Anderson, Raymond Allen, William Feeser, J. W. Broussard, Leslie Turner, John Biggins, Ed Gregory, John Stone, William Futchik, C. Larry Emeigh, Clement Amundsen, Morry Hursthouse, Jerry Kostal, Don Sheridan, Walter Pilat, Bill Houllhan, Robert Schultz, Robert Starzynski and Winston Burroughs.



368th Squadron

Front row: Bus Ormond, Charles Edinger, Ralph Bordner, Jane Odle, Joe Hardesty, Gene Howe, Wayne Stelish, Allen Smith, Russ Houghton, Joe Hoffman, Wallace Boring, Robert Stevens and

Irv Karpman. Second row: August Krajcik, Robert Seelos, John Smith, Reginald Robinson, Donald R. Ross, Joseph Jaeger, Maurice Christensen, William Cavaness, Maynard Dix, Andy Vangalis and Lee Kessler. Back row: Oscar Bourn, Calvin Garrison, Louis Rodriguez, James Ray Coleman, Bennie Jefferies, Philip Field, Gafford Jennings, Ted Boswell, Jack Samway, Dr. Harold Munal, Albert Rehn, Robert Kenny and Orval Cook.



369th Squadron

Front row: Earl Schwab, Howard Sharkey, Dennis Sharkey, James Wirth, George Antous, Robert Roth, William Hogan, Cleo Dark, Lowell Burgess, Casey Jones, Theodore Harkin, Joseph Marciano, William Flanagan, in front in wheelchair. Second row: W. F. Mitchell, J. C. Thorn, Robert

Crane, Chuck Mullins, William Collins, Victor Lisek, Robert Riordan, John MacPherson, Horace Corigliano, Alfred Norman, Raymond Yerak and Bert Perlmutter. Third row: Forest Goodwill, Harold Thornan, Eddie Perin, John Howard, Gerald Rotter, James Edeler, Harvey Ryder, Elmer Nofsinger, Gerald Coghlan, Leslie Yearous and Trygve Olsen. Fourth row: Edgar Smith, Wallace Peckham, Lawrence Foster, Orville Karstaedt, Vincent Palumbo, Mel Loes, Lowell Mikles, Oliver Minihane, John Stright, Carl Janssen, Roy Howard John Gaydosh and Kermit Cavedo.



423rd Squadron

Front row: Charles Hayen, George Johnson, Howard Hutchinson, William Perry, Luverne Halverson, Norman Armbrust, Ken Herbster, Ed Bergeron, Leo VanDuerzen, William Jung, John Endicott, Kenneth Jacobson, John Tinklenberg and Paul Zahniser. Second row: Herman Cothran, Charles Fatca, Gene Kimsey, William Guilfoyle, Leslie Berry, Frank Yaussi, Catherine Brennan,

George Gransie, Harold Brown, John Ferrari, Robert C. Williams. Third row: Harry Doles, James S. Cheney, Pervis Earl Youree, William Lynch, J. P. Shutz, E. D. Walters, L. R. Goetz, C. T. Schroeder, Ralph Beach, H. Rex Jones, Frank Serafin, Paul Reieux, Mat Radnofsky and Jack Persac. Fourth row: E. J. Stewart, Jack Murphy, Don Casey, Aram J. Nahabedian, Robert Sach, Al Prentice, Robert Thomas, Jacob LeRoy, Dr. Samuel Simpson, Ralph Zimmerman, Hollis H. Baker, Francis Waugh, Donald R. Spencer and Daryl W. Phillips.

Those Who Were at Omaha Listed

(w—indicates wife attended)

367th

Raymond D. Allen w, Clements Amundson w, Fred W. Anderson w, Howard O. Balcom w, John Biggins w, John P. Bloom w, Joseph Broussard w, Tom Chandler, Alexander Clarke w, John Conlin w, Walter H. Coons, John E. Corcoran w, Robert Cox w, John H. Dexter, Larry Emeigh, William Feeser w, Ray Fields w, Ray Fortin w, William E. Futchik, Clay Ganes, Edward Gregory w, John Grimm w, Joe Hammer, Donat Heon w, Robert B. Hermann, William F. Houlihan, G. R. Kieth Jackson w, Norman Johnson w, Walter F. Johnson w, John R. Kalb, Vincent Kiely w, George Klucick w, Jerome Kostal w, Gus Lamb w, Edward Leahy w, James B. Lenaghan w, Robert Maxwell w, Joseph A. Miller, Toode Motley, John R. McKee, Herbert McVicar w, A. L. Nesbitt w, Maurice Pickett w, Walter Pilat w, Fred Rector w, George G. Roberts w, Helmuth Roeder w, Edward Ronczy w, John L. Ryan, Jack Schmidt w, Robert G. Schultz, Parley D. Small w, Bartlett E. Smith, Myron L. Sorden, Robert Starzynski w, Edward J. Stevens w, John A. Stone, Russell A. Strong w, Robert J. Vickers w, Adolph Visconti, Charles Vondrachek w, Richard Wallace w, Patrick Walsh w, Ralph Whiteside w, Thomas F. Witt w, Roy Stroudx.

368th

Ralph Bordner w, Wallace Boring w, Ted Boswell w, William Cavaness w, Maurice Christianson w, J. Ray Coleman w, Orval Cook w, Delmar Corderman, Maynard Dix w, Charles Edinger w, Philip J. Field, Joe Gabrish, Calvin Garrison w, John Gaydosh w, Joe Hardesty, Joseph Hoffman, Russell Houghton, Gene Howe, Joseph Jaeger w, Bennie Jeffries w, Horace Jennings, Irving Karpman w, Robert J. Kenney w, Lee

Kessler, August Krajcik w, H. Deane Munal w, Waverly Ormond, Albert F. Rehn w, Reginald L. Robinson, Louis Rodriguez w, Gilbert M. Roeder, Donald R. Ross w, Jack Samway w, Robert W. Seelos, Allen Smith, Jr. w, John E. Smith, Wayne Stellish, Robert S. Stevens, Franz E. Tingler, Andy Vangalis w.

369th

George Antous w, Sheldon Beigel, Lowell Burgess w, Kermit Cavedo, Gerald Coghlan, Bill Collins, Horace Corigliano w, Robert Crane, Everett Daniel w, Cleo Dark, Elvie Deal w, James Edeler, Wilson Elliott, C. Mace Fatigati, William Flanagan w, Lawrence Foster, Forest Goodwill w, Theodore Harkin, Edward J. Hennessy, William Hogan w, John Howard w, Roy Howard w, Carl Janssen w, Casey Jones w, Orville Karstaedt, Victor Lisec w, Melvin Loes w, John MacPherson w, Joseph Marciano, James Marcy, Joseph Mathews, Lowell Mikles, Oliver Minihane w, W. F. Mitchell w, Charles Mullins, Y. B. Newsom, Alfred Norman w, Trygve Olsen w, Vincent Palumbo w, Wallace Peckham w, Eddie Perin w, Bert Perlmutter, William Ransdell w, Robert Riordan w, John Roberts w, Robert Roth w, Gerald Rotter w, H. B. Ryder w, Sol Schnoll w, Earl Schwab w, Dennis Sharkey, Howard Sharkey w, Edgar Smith w, John Stright w, J. C. Thorn, Harold Thornam w, James Venable, Alfred Villagran w, Jack Webb, James Wirth w, Jack Wood, Leslie Yearous w, Raymond Yerak w.

423rd

Norman Armbrust w, Hollis Baker, Edward Bergeron w, Leslie Berry, Harold Brown w, Donald Casey w, James S. Cheney, Herman Cothran w, Harry Doles w, John Endicott w, Charles Fatca w,



Group Headquarters

Front row: Donald McLean, William Perry, Harold Kadovitz, Robert C. Williams, Don Upchurch, James S. Cheney, Walter Coons and Thomas Witt. Back row: John MacPherson, Robert Brenner, Dr. Thurman Shuller, William Carlile, Donald Ross and Hubert Rex Jones.

John Ferrari, James Gerlach, Leon Goetz, George Gransie w, William Guilfoyle, Norman Hall, Luverne Halverson, Charles Hayen, Ken Herbster w, Howard Hutchinson w, Kenneth Jacobson w, George Johnson, Rex Jones w, William Jung, Roy Kelley w, Gene J. Kimsey w, Jacob LeRoy w, William Lynch w, Jack Murphy, Aram Nahabedian, William Olson w, William Perry w, L. J. Persac, Berkley Peterson w, Daryl W. Phillips w, John Prentice w, Matthew Radnofsky w, Paul Reieux w, Charles Schroeder w, Frank Serafin w, Donald Sheridan, J. P. Shutz, Samel Simpson, Donald Spencer, Milton Stathas, Forrest Stewart, Robert Thomas w, John Tinklenberg w, Leo Van Deurzen w, Eugene Walters w, Francis Waugh w, Robert C. Williams, Frank Yaussi, Pervis Earl Youree w, Robert Zach w, Paul Zahniser w, Ralph Zimmerman w.

Others

Catherine Brennan (423rd). Robert Brenner w (352), William R. Carlile (4th), Janet Evans, Harold S. Kadovitz (Hq.), Nena Leary (423), Donald R. McLean (705), Jane W. Odle (368), Thurman Shuller w (Hq.), Don Upchurch w (Hq.).

Pearl Harbor Set War Tone

At Dawn We Slept, by Gordon W. Prange, New York, McGraw Hill, 1981. 873 pp.

You've looked at its forbidding size in the book stores and probably passed it by. If you are really into military history, and want the full story on Pearl Harbor, give it a try. It's now available in paperback at a considerably lower price.

The late Prof. Prange had a most unusual opportunity to explore all aspects of the Pearl Harbor debacle, from both the U.S. and the Japanese sides, and has put together a minute by minute narrative that will be difficult to surpass. Others will only write more interestingly and with much of the lesser material eliminated.

"... Pearl Harbor ensured that American strength would be concentrated into an arrow point of resolution, that the entire nation would stand as one man and woman behind the men at the front," concludes the Maryland historian.

A Look Back At Cadet Life In San Antone

Jim Shumaker is a professor at the University of North Carolina, and a columnist for the Charlotte (NC) Observer. Last October he authored a piece on San Antonio, and we quote part of it for those who went through classification center or took part of their cadet training in that part of the world:

SAN ANTONIO—The next to last time I had come into close contact with San Antone, now the nation's 10th-largest city and possibly the second most-talkative, after New York, was more than 40 years ago.

The city then, from my limited experience, was free-wheeling, dirty and low-down—the kind of town where you walked the mean streets with a hand on your wallet and glanced over both shoulders.

The center of town then, for aviation cadets from the San Antonio pre-flight school and other GIs on pass, was the Gunter Hotel, which almost certainly set a regional record in hot-pillow trade. The Gunter didn't advertise hourly rates, nor did it need to; there was a clear understanding.

The Gunter set the social tone for the city, as I perceived it, in World War II.

The last time I had seen San Antone was at the end of the war. The Air Force flew me from the East Coast back out to that old aviation cadet center to be mustered out of service and returned to the East Coast.

My most vivid recollection of that trip was of climbing dripping wet out of the San Antonio River, which wandered like an open sewer through the town, having my uniform pressed dry by a helpful young lady and my pockets looted in the process.

Now, 40 years later, the transmutation is stunning if not altogether complete. The dross has been turned into silver and in some cases solid gold.

O'Sullivan Had World 'Name'

The late Jeremiah F. O'Sullivan, 368th intelligence officer from November 1942 until September 1943, later achieved a reputation as one of the world's leading scholars in the field of Cistercian studies.

A member of the Fordham University faculty for more than 30 years until his retirement in 1967, Dr. O'Sullivan was a graduate of the National University of Ireland, Villanova University and the University of Pennsylvania. On May 11, 1974, just 20 days before his death, he was honored with a doctor of humane letters degree from Western Michigan University.

In the course of his academic career, Dr. O'Sullivan acquired an extensive and specialized library in Cistercian studies, which was later

Let's Help Brits to the US

Dear Fellow 306th Members:

If you missed the 306th Bomb Group Memorial Dedication at Thurligh in October '82, and the September '83 group reunion at Omaha, you are twice unfortunate. Both events were truly memorable, emotional and successful occasions.

At the Omaha Reunion it was proposed by several members, previously attending the 306th Memorial Dedication, that a fund be established to assist our 306th Group British Associates in attending our future reunions. These members felt it would be especially appropriate to invite Gordon and Connie Richards to Fort Worth as our unit guests. Such an invitation would be a small measure of our appreciation for the Richards' valiant efforts, the dedication and the giving of time and self to insure that our Memorial Dedication was the very best.

Several generous contributions were received at Omaha. So, you fellows out there, how about digging down and joining Parley Small, Matthew Radnofsky, Ray Fields, Harold Brown, Russ Houghton, Ken Herbster, Horace Corigliano and others. Send your money direct to Bill Collins to aid in the effort to bring the Richards, Mills, Normans, Franklins and John Hadfield to the USA for one of our bangup reunions.

(A recent status report from Bill Collins shows more than \$700 has been contributed. Watch the January Echoes for a better figure!)

Hollis H. Baker, 423rd

Look for Them!

Unfortunately, the 306th mailing list undergoes continual fluctuations. We are encouraged by the constant influx of new names, but discouraged by the losses.

You may be able to help ease the losses by checking into old friends, or residents of your area whom we have momentarily lost. In most cases a check has already been made as to a new telephone number, but we invite you to pursue new addresses in any way possible.

Below are listed names and last known addresses:

Max M. Bowles, Beach Haven CTC, Long Beach, CA 90806.

John P. Burr, 5200 W. Burleigh Rd., Brookfield, WI 53005.

Louis F. Damaso, 6730 US19N, Box 8, Holiday, FL 33590.

John L. Davis, 7031 Albatross Dr., Buena Park, CA 90620.

Donald M. Eckstein, Sunnyside Acres, Greenlake, WI 54941.

Ralph R. Elbert, 400 Idaho St., #160, Waterloo, IA 50703.

Robert H. Farwell, 10731 Holly Springs, Houston, TX 77042.

Charles E. Fehr, 6133 Kingston Rd., Oklahoma City, OK 73122.

given to the Cistercian Center at Western Michigan University. There, looking over his beloved books, is a large portrait of him and his wife.

After leaving the 306th, O'Sullivan eventually saw service with the 82nd Airborne Division as the division historian. From 1951 to 1953 he was called back to active duty with the Joint Chiefs of Staff in Washington, serving in its research and development section.

In 1969 O'Sullivan underwent a laryngectomy, but in time reacquired the ability to speak.

At the time of his death he had had five books published, and three more appeared after that date.

A Look Back At German Commanders

"The Other Side of the Hill,"

by B. H. Liddle Hart. 1951. 471 pp.

This is a classic work, perhaps the only time in history in which "the other side" has been extensively probed by an expert after the end of a major conflict.

Hart, a onetime British tank commander and an eminent military observer and writer between the wars, as well as after WWII, put together a series of interviews with Germany's top generals to study how they felt and responded to major battles.

Much of the book is devoted to the Russian campaigns, but there are also sections on Italy and Normandy.

"Surveying the record of German leadership in the war, and the course of operations, what are the conclusions that emerge? An utter failure on the plane of war policy, or grand strategy, is seen to be accompanied by a remarkable, though uneven, run of performance in strategy and tactics."

In his final paragraph, Hart writes "The German generals of this war were the best-finished product of their profession—anywhere. They could have been better if their outlook had been wider and their understanding deeper. But if they had become philosophers they would have ceased to be soldiers."

This could fill a week or two of winter evenings of pleasurable reading—because at our age when a subject comes up we can often visualize the headlines as they confronted us in our time.

Ward R. Fowler, 3491 Middleton Ave., Castro Valley, CA 94546.

Andrew J. Friedrich, PO Box 2053, San Ysidro, CA 92073.

William F. Gravins, 1633 NE 3 Ct., Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33301.

Fred M. Hall, 110 Yuma Pl., Canyon, TX 79015.

Ernest Higham, 4666 Cappington St., Enon, OH 45323.

Harry Holt, Lake Placid, FL 33852.

Clifford C. Kemberling, Branson, MO 65616.

William S. Kirk, 1 N 5th St., Richmond, VA 23219.

Leith C. Lemmerhirt, Sharon, WI 53585.

Paul V. Manning, 7 Meadow Ln., Bridgewater, MA 02324.

James Martin, 2836 Scarborough, Cleveland Heights, OH 44118.

Edward E. Murst, 5015 Seminole Blvd. N, St. Petersburg, FL 33708.

Omaha Balance

One of the aims of the Omaha reunion was to present an opportunity for a great get together that did not price many people out of the market.

This was accomplished in part by finding a headquarters where the prices were reasonable and in keeping all costs to a minimum.

In his final report, Donald R. Ross showed a balance of \$279 of income over expenditures, with expenses for the event totaling \$29,495.10. Included in this amount were the monies spent by 306th men for various gift items and other merchandise.

Continuing 306th Research

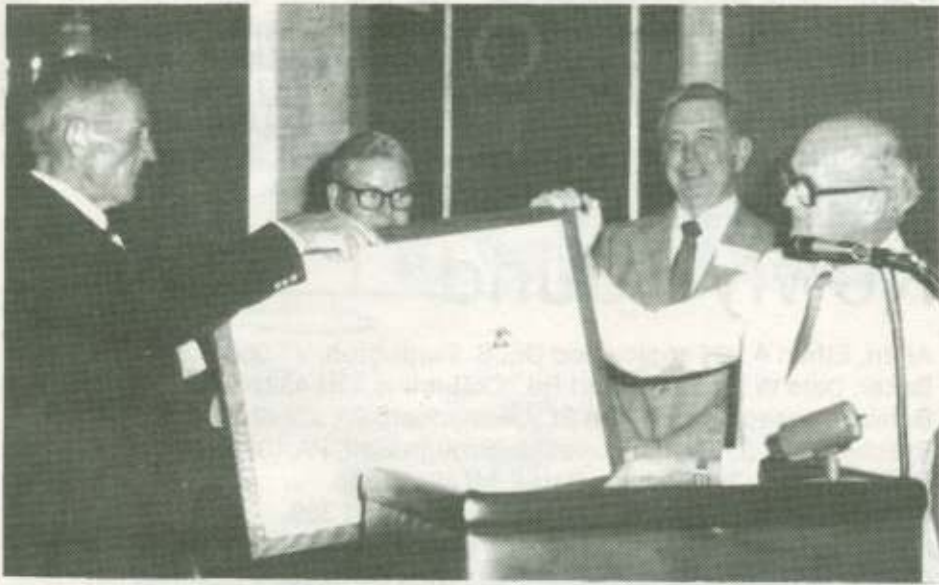
Although the new history of the 306th is completed, there will be continuing research conducted on the group in attempting to bring together an even more complete picture. This involves the ongoing search for men who served. If you wish to assist in this effort, send your contributions to

Russell A. Strong
2041 Hillsdale
Kalamazoo, MI 49007

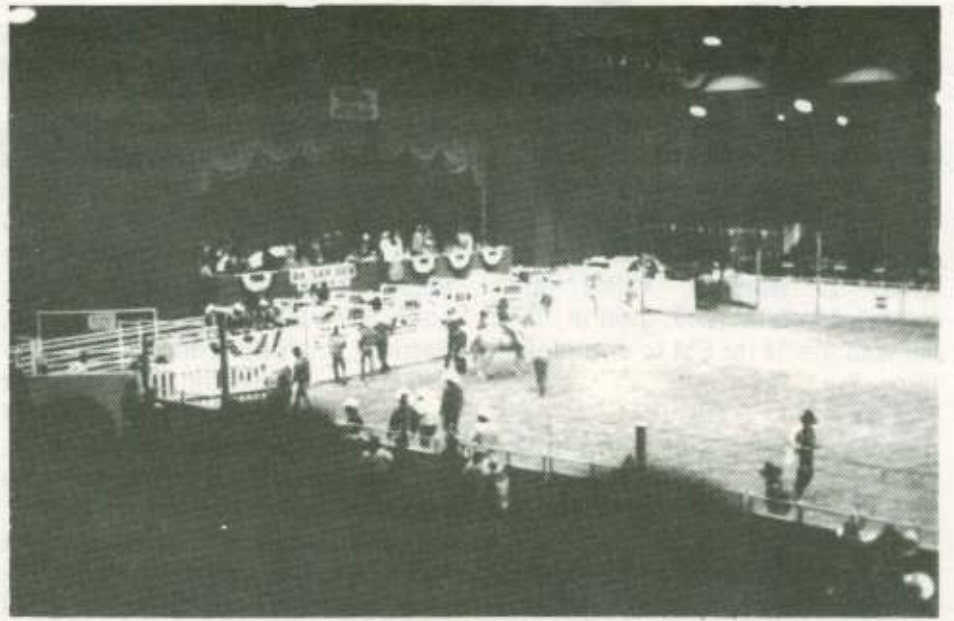
Name _____

Address _____

Omaha! How it Looked



Gen. Bennie L. Davis, SAC commander, accepts a new painting of the "Rose of York" for the SAC museum. Gen. LeMay and Judge Ross watch as Russell Strong makes the presentation.



Judge Donald Ross, chairman for the Omaha reunion.



Gen. Curtis LeMay greets a group of 306th men: Russ Houghton, Gus Krajcik and Andy Vangalis.



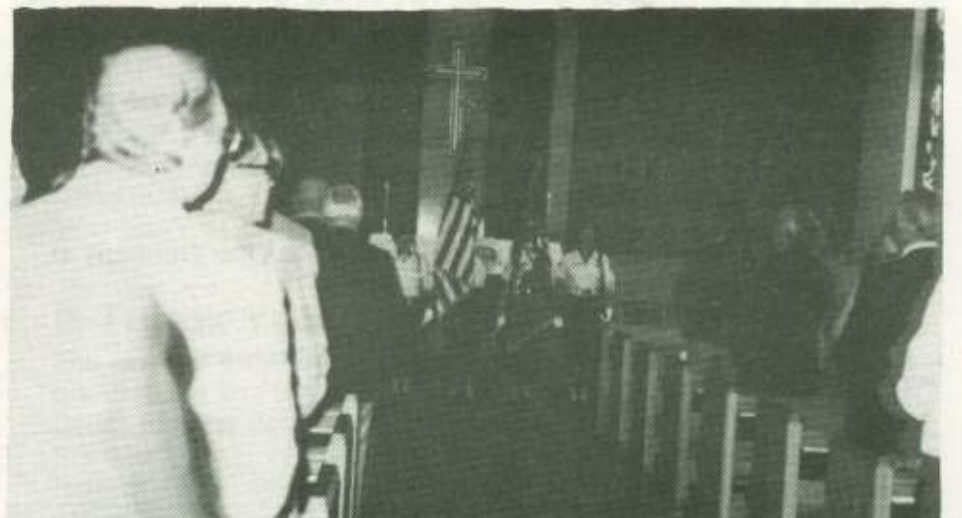
Enjoying the food at Ak-Sar-Ben, before the rodeo.



Jack and Ruth Grimm



Gen. Curtis LeMay accepts a copy of "First Over Germany" from Russell Strong, while Judge Donald Ross looks on.



During the memorial service at SAC headquarters

Deaths

Paul F. Bailey, 367th pilot from early June 1944 to MIA 12 Sept., at Ruhland, Germany, died July 5 in Des Moines, IA, after a seven-year bout with heart problems.

Jay L. Braman, 423rd radio operator in late 1943, died in 1979. He was the 121st EM to complete a tour.

Peter J. Butucel, 369th navigator/bombardier flying in late 1944 and 1945, died of a heart attack 28 Aug. 83 in St. Clair Shores, MI.

Isaac M. Debow, Jr., 4th station complement squadron, died 11 Dec. 79 in Sedgwick, AR, of heart disease.

Albert F. Dulli, 367th gunner in 1945, is deceased.

John P. Foulkes, 367th ordnance officer, died June 20 in Mansfield, OH, where he had lived since 1946. He retired as a realtor eight years ago because of ill health.

Roy H. Gibson, an original 423rd gunner on Mack McKay's crew, died in 1983 in Warrenton, OR. He was badly wounded 1 May 1943 as a tail gunner for L. P. Johnson, but

Using the painting of the "Rose of York" as a focal point, the museum at the Strategic Air Command headquarters is hoping to build a 306th exhibit. If you have any memorabilia you would like to contribute, contact Harvey Stovall, assistant director, SAC Museum, Offutt AFB, NE 68113. His telephone at work is 402/294-2245.

later completed his combat tour.

Col. Felix M. Hardison, deputy commander of the 306th in April-May, 45, died June 3 in San Antonio, TX, where he had lived since retirement in 1971. He had flown a tour with the 19th Bomb Group in the Pacific before coming to England, this story being told in a book, *Suzy Q*, authored by his wife, Patricia, and published in 1943.

George G. Kessel, 369th waist gunner and MIA on Berry's crew at Frankfurt 2 Feb. 44, died 28 Nov. 1978 in South Bend, IN, where he was a realtor.

Dr. Edmund F. Longworth, a flight surgeon with the 306th from 17 July 42 until late that year, died 3 Oct. 82 of cancer in Orange, CA.

George F. Meltzer, 369th navigator (Eugene G. Hanes' crew), died March 25 at Wheaton, IL. Fly-

Ft. Worth

(From page 1)

had been held last September when Russ Strong was in the area for a football game, and out of that came the proposal made at the Omaha reunion.

"Early indications are that we will get a great deal of cooperation from elements in the Forth Wroth area," says Robinson. "It is our goal to run as smooth a meeting as that held in Omaha."

For the distaff side of the group, just across I-20 from the Green Oaks Inn is located a very large shopping mall.

Put the dates on your calendar now—October 25, 26, 27, 1984.

ing in mid-1943, Meltzer had the distinction of being hit in the head by a propellor and later recovering.

Melvin W. Schrader, 369th mechanic, died July 9 in Sutter, IL. He ran a rural general store for 30 years, retiring in 1977.

George J. Spelman, 369th original navigator (James

Johnston's crew) and later 369th squadron navigator, died recently. He was the 10th officer in the group to complete a combat tour, and left Thurleigh 5 June 43.

Howard C. Turner, a 423rd gunner (James F. Sylvester's crew) in 1943-44, died of cancer May 14 in McDonald, PA.

Newly-Found

- Allen, Ethan A., 9 Tanglewood Dr., S. Burlington, VT 05041 369.
 Baker, Dale W., 3190 Gerbert Rd., Columbus, OH 43224 369.
 Batman, Joseph, 109 N. 4th St., Shenadoah, VA 22849 1628.
 Brecher, Mel, 35 Rittenhouse Rd., Brough Hall, PA 19008 367.
 Brennan, Neil, 368 2nd, Manistee, MI 49660 368.
 Burwick, Ben, 11 Upham St., Lowell, MA 01851 369.
 Cappellett, Art, 390 Bunn Hill Rd., Vestal, NY 13850 423.
 Chadakoff, Nathan, 7 Old Estate Rd., Glen Cove, NY 11530 369.
 Coghlan, Gerald, 14 Prospect Ave., Garden City, NY 11530 369.
 Cox, Robert, PO Drawer E, Hamilton, NY 59840 367.
 Czechowski, Theodore J., E334 16th, Spokane, WA 99200 369.
 Demorest, Harold W., Space 43, 3033 E. Valley Blvd., West Covina, CA 91792 423.
 Dwiggins, Robert D., 1407 B Whilden Pl., Greensboro, NC 27408 369.
 Fetsch, Joseph, 8 Winding Woods Way, Pasadena, MD 21122 367.
 Frazier, Burton H., 13 Juniper Ln., Ridgefield, CT 06877 367.
 Gavito, Carlos B. Box 4995, Brownsville, TX 78520 423.
 Gerlach, James, 4816 Dakota Dr., Des Moines, IA 50313 423.
 Gibson, Oscar, 251 Silent Brook, Millington, TN 38053 367.
 Gordon, J. Victor, 1350 Karen Way NW, Salem, OR 97304 1628.
 Hill, Robert T., Rt. 1, Bollinger Rd., Bellville, OH 44813 369.
 Hubbell, Loren E., 706 DesMoines Ave., Rofle, IA 50581 369.
 Janssen, Carl, 1509 Wayne St., Bellevue, NE 69005.
 Johns, Lloyd, 3116 "D" Via Serena, Laguna Hills, CA 92653 369.
 Jones, Hubert R., 3409 Mariana Ct., Loveland, CO 80537 423.
 Kinzel, Kenneth, 718 W. Blaine, Monticello, IL 61856 423.
 Kreamelmeyer, Robert T., 1120-H Phillips Ct., Montrose, CO 81401 423.
 LaRue, Harlan, PO Box 71, Clinton, TN 37716 369.
 Lavoy, Henry, 6117 Burrige Ln., Glendale, AZ 85301.
 Livingston, Roy, 17 Intervale St., Quincy, MA 02269 367.
 Lord, Lester L., 315 Burnett Dr., Baytown, TX 77520 423.
 Marcy, James E., 1533 3rd Ave., Apt. 2E, New Brighton, PA 15066 369.
 Mathes, Stanley, 1030 Alta Ave., Medford, OR 97501 368.
 Mathews, Joseph A., PO Box 311, Marietta, SC 29661 369.
 McGonigle, William, 338 Shagbark Ct., Bear, DE 19701 423.
 McKnight, Douglas K., 2130 Camino Dr., Escondido, CA 92026 423.
 Mills, Clyde, 221 Spielman Hwy., Burlington, CT 06013.
 Morgan, Clement, M., 636 Ridge St., Lake Worth, FL 33460 369.
 Nofsinger, Elmer, 1539 Sunset, Liberal, KS 67901 369.
 Pedevillano, John R., 9306 Davidson, College Park, MD 20740 369.
 Peterson, Edward G., Jr., 2713 Hartford Ave., Fullerton, CA 92635 369.
 Pickett, Maurice W., PO Box 157, Mapleton, OR 97453 367.
 Piplar, Richard A., 517 Blanchard Ave., NE Port Charlotte, FL 92635 369.
 Rockwell, Robert G., 3 Douglas Ln., Ridgefield, CT 92683 367.
 Sayles, Jack, 14331 Nola Ave., Westminster, CA 92683 1628.
 Schnoll, Sol, 1121 Townshipline Rd., Jenkintown, PA 19046 369.
 Sebastian, Donald, 1113 E. Champion Blvd., Prairie du Chien, WI 53821 369.
 Sewell, Oliver J., 667 Euclid, Newark, OH 43055 369.
 Shelton, LTC Marshall, 21904 NE 364th St., Yacolt, WA 98675 369.
 Siler, Clyde, 29 W. Locust St., Mechanicsburg, PA 17055 423.
 Sircy, Robert, Hermitage, TN 37076 367.
 Smythe, E. Frank, 10900 Lakewood Dr., El Paso, TX 79935 367.
 Stafford, Charles R., 3727 70th Avenue Ct. West, Tacoma, WA 98466 367.
 Stroud, Roy C., 2622 N. 56th St., Omaha, NE 68104 367.
 Suchy, Donald K., 201 5th St., NE, Mandan, ND 58554 414.
 Sweeney, Forrest E., 5703 Cerritos, Houston, TX 77035 369.
 Taylor, John H., Rt. 3, Vienna, IL 62995 368.
 Thomas, Hubert E., PO Box 34, Harrisburg, NC 28075 367.
 Thompson, Eugene, 10050 Bryant #291, Yucaipa, CA 92399 369.
 Thornam, Harold, 9619 Binney St., Omaha, NE 68134 369.
 Tinklenberg, John, 2520 Rusridge Dr., Kalamazoo, MI 49007 423.
 White, Robert W., 1449 W. Fourth Ave., Oshkosh, WI 54901.
 Whiteside, Ralph, 1000 Woodside Dr., Findlay, OH 45840 367.
 Wickland, Roy L., 2325 Rio Verde Dr., West Covina, CA 91791 368.
 Wilson, Don L., 909 Center Sve., Holly Hill, FL 32017 367.
 Wilson, John, 23 Auburn Rd., Wellesley, MA 02181 368.
 Wood, Jack, 2818 James Louis Dr., Amarillo, TX 79110 369.
 Wood, Robert H., 1764 Otisco Valley Rd., Marietta, NY 13110 369.
 Zahniser, Paul N., 14 Tendring Rd., Cherry Hill, NJ 08003 423.



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