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306th Bombardment Group Association

Registrations Moving for Colorado Springs Reunion

Gen. Clark Speaker at Banquet

Lt/Gen Albert P. Clark will be the Saturday evening banquet speaker, and brings a unique Eighth Air Force experience to us—although we must hurry to add that some 306th men experienced the same thing.

Gen. Clark flew his first—and last—mission as an 8th fighter pilot of 26 July 1942, and for the remainder of the war lived in Stalag Luft III. This, too, happened to the 367's "First Pigeon," Al LaChasse, who started and ended on 9 October 42, date of the 306th's first combat mission. He, too, was in Stalag III.

At the time Gen. Clark was executive officer of the 31st fighter group, a position he held for a month and a day. The 31st checked into the 8th in late June of 1942.

A 1936 graduate of the U.S. Military Academy, Gen. Clark went on to a distinguished career in the postwar Air Force, serving ultimately as commanding general of the Air University, 1 August 68 to 31 July 70 and superintendent of the U. S. Air Force Academy, 1 August 70 until 31 July 74, when he retired from active duty.

The onetime POW now lives at Monument, CO.

Casey Jones Project Now Researched

After VE-Day, and when things settled down a bit, the 306th acquired a lot of new aircraft and a new assignment—Casey Jones.

This was a project which involved a great deal of straight and level flying while the cameras recorded much of Europe and North Africa—and the 306th moved around to France, Morocco and



The rugged beauty of the Colorado landscape.

REUNION CALENDAR

Thursday, 5 September

- 1300 Registration opens in the Clarion Hotel lobby. Afternoon free. Group hospitality room will be open.
- 1700 Optional Event: Buses depart for Flying W Ranch
- 2030 Hospitality room open for informal evening. Cash bar.

Friday, 6 September

- 0930 Buses depart for USAF Academy (transportation, no charge)
- 1030 306th Memorial Plaque dedication at AFA cemetery
- 1130 Social hour at AFA Officers' club. Cash bar.
- 1230 Luncheon at Officers' club (no charge)
- 1415 AFA briefing at Arnold Hall, tour of chapel and field house. Tour of Academy grounds.
- 1700 Buses return to Clarion Hotel. Evening free.

Saturday, 7 September

- 0900 Board of directors' meeting
- 0945 General business meeting
- 0945 Ladies' Program
- 1100 Optional event: Buses leave for Pike's Peak. Other possible tours are Colorado Springs area, Cripple Creek, Royal Gorge. Tour operator available in Clarion lobby.
- 1800 Squadron pictures
- 1830 Cocktail hour. Cash bar.
- 1930 Banquet

Germany, eventually closing out of Thurlough.

Not much has been recorded about Casey Jones, and the official records are bereft of many of the details that make such events live once again.

Robert J. Boyd, chief of the history division of Strategic Air Command, is interested in Casey Jones and needs your help, if you were involved. If you have data, or

recollections, or pictures, he'd like to hear from you.

Write him at the Office of the Historian, Strategic Air Command, Offutt AFB, NE 68113. His telephone number is 402/294-2601.

Boyd spend some time interviewing 306th people at our Omaha reunion, and informs the editor that he will be visiting with us again at the Colorado Spring reunion.

Sept. 5, 6, 7 Dates for 3rd Reunion

Registrations are beginning to flow into Colorado Springs for the 1985 reunion of the 306th Bomb Group, says Monty Montoya, chairman of the reunion committee.

"We are pleased with the numbers thus far, with 176 persons already registered at the deadline for this issue of Echoes," he states. "We fully expect that the July Echoes will really bring out 306th members, and we hope to see many new faces and name tags this year."

In addition to the reunion activities, Montoya and his committee have planned for some optional events, such as an evening cookout at the Flying W ranch on Thursday and a trip up Pike's Peak on Saturday.

The executive committee of the association has emphasized that reunions are for just that, and in the future it is expected that outside activities will be held to a minimum, leaving lots of time for informal gathering of onetime comrades. "Reflying old missions, whether to targets in France or Germany; to the pubs near Thurlough or in Bedford; or even down the road to Luton and London, are what it's all about," says Col. John L. Ryan, president of the association.

The major highlight of the reunion will be a trip out to the nearby Air Force Academy, where a 306th plaque will be placed on an extended memorial wall and unveiled in the presence of all those who attend. Included in this will be lunch at the Officers' club and a tour of the magnificent facility there. The editor would remind all of those who have not visited the Academy to be sure not to miss this event!

As to transportation, Montoya has made arrangements with Con-

Colorado

From page 1

Continental Airlines to offer some rate advantage to 306th members, and details are included elsewhere in this issue of Echoes. The Clarion Hotel will furnish "wheels" from the airport to the inn, and if a bus is not in evidence when you arrive, call 576-5900.

The Thursday evening optional event will be a trip to the Flying W ranch, a working spread, where there will be a chuckwagon supper and a Western show. Enroute the bus will tour through Broadmoor, the western section of Colorado Springs, and the Garden of the Gods.

Friday's Air Force Academy event has both transportation and lunch fees as a part of the total registration fee. It will be necessary for everyone to take the buses provided in order to witness the events, as individual private cars cannot be accommodated on the Academy grounds. Friday evening is left open for dinner on your own and visiting.

The Association's board of directors will hold its annual meeting at 9 Saturday, followed at 9:45 by the general business meeting. This will include election of officers.

At the same hour there will be a special program for ladies, which will feature Gladys Bueller's humorous anecdotes regarding Colorado's colorful characters of the "Old West."

Buses will depart the Clarion at 11 a.m. for the trip to Pike's Peak, one of the breathtaking views of the Western landscape.

At 6 Saturday the annual squadron photographs will be taken, after which a cocktail party is planned. The annual Group banquet is set for 7:30, with Lt/Gen A. P. Clark as the featured speaker. Dancing will follow dinner to the music of Bill Freeman's orchestra.

Many will be on the road Sunday morning, headed all over the United States, and with many already committed to appearing at the 1986 reunion in Dayton.



The 306th Bombardment Group Historical Association: John Ryan, president; Robert Starzynski, Vice President; Russell A. Strong, secretary; and William M. Collins, Jr., treasurer. Directors: Robert Crane, William Houlihan and Gerald Rotter.

306th ECHOES is published four times annually: January, April, July and October, and is mailed free of charge to all known addresses of 306th personnel, 1942-45. Contributions in support of this effort may be remitted to the treasurer.

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8th AF CONTACT MAN: WILLIAM M. COLLINS, JR., 2973 Heatherbrae Drive, Poland, Ohio 44514. 216/757-3463.



Gen. Delmar Spivey at the 306th Bomb Group Restaurant opening in 1981.

Spivey's Book Affords View Of Stalag III

"POW Odyssey," by Maj. Gen. Delmar T. Spivey, 1984. 182 pp. Published by Mrs. Spivey, and available from her for \$7, including mailing costs: #103 Randolph Farms, 13300 Indian Rocks Rd., Largo, FL 33544.

This is a gem of a book, written from the viewpoint of one of the compound commanders at Stalag Luft III, Sagan.

It explains much of the philosophy behind the American direction of activities within the camp, and the need to exact military discipline among the American troops there. It also deals with the matter of the command personnel working with the Germans to try to improve conditions for the prisoners and to alleviate the myriad problems which lay just below the surface.

Col. Spivey was a West Pointer and was flying his second mission as an observer of aerial gunnery. He became one of a number of high ranking officers in the prison camp and commanded center compound.

Col. Spivey worked closely with Gen. Arthur Vanaman, another flying observer who spent much of the war in Stalag III. Vanaman was a former air attache in Berlin, spoke fluent German and had a "name" that commanded great respect among many German Luftwaffe leaders.

If there is a shortcoming it is that the POW experience is seen here through the eyes of a commander, and thus cannot deal intimately with the fate of the officers who were a large part of the population of III, nor of the enlisted men in III or in many other camps scattered throughout Germany.

But Spivey makes no attempt to cover the entire experience. His writing style is excellent and this book is a major addition to the literature on prison camp life.

The editor commends it highly to anyone who served with Col. Spivey, or who was in another POW camp. While it may not be "your"

Each issue is prepared and printed at Kalamazoo, MI. Editorial contributions are welcome and should be addressed to the editor. Changes in addresses and other matters concerning circulation of the 306th ECHOES should be sent to Poland, OH.

A Growing List Attending

- Clements A. Amundson (& Ginny) 367th
 Marshall E. Baker (& Muriel) 368th
 Sheldon Beigel (& Gloria) 369th
 Ralph E. Bordner (& Nell) 368th
 Wallace Boring (& Betty) 368th
 Ted Boswell, Jr. (& Gloria) 368th
 William H. Breslin (& Dot) 368th
 C. Dale Briscoe (& Beti) 369th
 Elwood N. Brotzman (& Mabel) 368th
 Joseph W. Broussard (& Ada, Estelle & Wayne) 367th
 Winston W. Burroughs (& Rose) 367th
 William R. Carlile Gp. Hqs.
 William P. Cavaness (& Dorothy) 368th
 M. E. Christianson (& E.M.) 368th
 Walter Coons (& Beth) 367th
 Del Corderman (& Peg) 368th
 Robert E. Crane 369th
 Arthur H. Crapsey (& Jean) 367th
 Chas. J. Crunican (& Ann) 367th
 Robert L. Dodge (& Hilda) 368th
 James E. Edeler (& Verna) 369th
 William H. Feeser (& Polly) 367th
 Wm. L. Ferguson (& Catherine) 369th
 William W. Flanagan (& Helen) 369th
 James Furay (& Lucy) 369th
 William E. Futchik 367th
 Joe P. Gabrish 368th
 Clay Ganes (& Thelma) 367th
 Forest W. Goodwill (& Hazel) 369th
 Walter Guy (& Eileen) 367th
 Edward J. Hennessy, Jr. 369th
 Robert B. Herman (& Janice) 367th
 Richard A. Hill 423rd
 William Hogan (& Elayne) 369th
 Russell G. Houghton 368th
 William F. Houlihan (& Ruth) 367th
 Morry Hursthouse (& Elsa) 367th
 Howard E. Hutchinson (& Elaine) 423rd
 G. R. Kieth Jackson (& Karen Beth) 367th
 George W. Johnson 423rd
 Norman L. Johnson 367th
 Owen W. Johnson (& Jean) 367th
 Casey Jones (& Louise) 369th/GP
 H. Rex Jones (& Doris) 423rd/GP
 John R. Kalb (& Clem) 367th
 Roy Kelley (& Dorothy) 423rd
 John C. Krische 369th
 John L. Lambert (& Fran) 423rd
 Phillip D. Lanyon (& Robbie) 423rd
 James B. Lenaghan (& Mrs.) 367th
 Jack R. Lewis (& Mary) 369th
 Donald C. MacDonald (& June) 367th
 Arthur W. Mack (& Tess) 367th
 Edward P. Maliszewski 369th
 Robert L. Maxwell (& Grace & Steven) 367th
 Talmadge C. McDonough (& Yvonne) 367th
 Curtis Melton (& Marian) 368th
 Eduardo "Monty" Montoya (& Klara) 368th
 Paul E. Morgan 369th
 Jack Murphy 423rd
 A. J. Nahabedian 423rd
 Alfred J. Norman (& Jeanette) 369th
 Eddie A. Perin 369th
 William F. Perry (& Dottie) 423rd/GP
 Malcolm A. Phillips (& Vera) 369th
 Frank B. Potter, Jr. (& Terry) 369th
 Arthur H. Resser (& Evie) 423rd
 Reginald L. Robinson (& Verna) 368th
 Gerald D. Rotter (& Lois) 369th
 John L. Ryan (& Janice) 367th
 Jack M. Schmidt (& Gail) 367th
 Frank Serafin (& Florence) 423rd
 Earl P. Shapland (& Harriett) 423rd
 Donald F. Sheridan (& Faye) 367th
 Robert G. Schultz 367th
 J. P. Shutz 423rd
 Robert A. Siavage 367th
 P. D. Small (& Virginia) 367th
 Edgar R. Smith (& Irene) 369th
 Forrest J. Stewart 423rd
 Russell A. Strong (& June) 368th
 Henry W. Terry (& Hazel) 367th 369th/GP
 Reginald H. Thayer, Jr. 368th
 Leslie W. Turner (& Muriel) 367th
 Andy Vangalis (& Helen) 368th
 Alfred C. Villagran 369th
 Adolph L. Visconti (& Freida) 367th
 Richard Wallace (& Marjorie) 367th
 Robert C. Williams (& Betty) 423rd/GP 367th
 James W. Wirth (& Margaret) 369th
 Darwin Wissenback 367th
 Erwin Wissenback 367th
 Robert H. Wood (& Carol) 369th
 Jane W. Odle—widow of "Pappy" Odle 368th
 Catherine Z. Brennan (& daughter Nena)

Airline Sets Rules for Use

Continental Airlines has been designated the official airline for the 1985 306th BG. Reunion, and will provide the following:

*\$5.00 discount on any one way coach fare up to \$99.00, \$10.00 on any one way coach fare \$99.00-\$199.00 and \$15.00 on any one way coach fare \$200.00 and up.

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To obtain the above discounts, when calling or writing for reservations identify yourself as a 306th BG. attendee and cite **Master File Number Z00048**. It is recommended that reservations be made by calling toll free number utilizing Credit Card, or writing Continental Airlines at P.O. Box 4607, Houston, TEXAS 77210.

Gil VanderMarlier, 369th pilot, was pictured and interviewed for a 40th reunion of VE-Day feature in *Detroit* magazine, published weekly by the *Detroit Free Press*.

What is a Reunion? 'Our Special Relationship', Says One Man

The following tells something of what reunions are all about. Unfortunately, it did not come from a 306th man, but was spoken by Paul Shuford, now a Richmond, VA, attorney, at a reunion last year of the 505th Bomb Wing, and is reprinted here with his permission. It was brought to the attention of the Echoes editor by M/Gen Delmar Wilson, and we pass it along in particular to those who have not yet "made" a 306th reunion.

Once again, we have had a great three days . . . renewing and enjoying old friendships . . . and making new friendships with some of those we did not get to know earlier. We have relived, and usually embellished, all our favorite memories . . . the funny things . . . the stupid things . . . the lucky things. All in all, it has been another terrific reunion.

But it seems to me that there are ties . . . some special memories . . . that bind us together much more deeply and significantly than the easy camaraderie and funny stories which we have so enjoyed. We don't talk about those ties, but we feel them . . . and we recall them, albeit silently, whenever we get together. Others may view things somewhat differently, but for me these ties fall roughly into three categories.

The first and most obvious aspect of our special relationship lies in the fact that the experience we shared caught most of us on the very threshold of life. Again, I would not presume to speak for anyone else, but in my case, that experience took a green, scared

kid and made him into something approaching a man. For a long time, I was rather embarrassed by the fact that I never got over being scared. Maybe some of you felt the same. In retrospect, however, I feel that very fact that we managed to carry on despite being scared had a marked influence on how we have faced life since then. There is no doubt in my mind but that this ability to *carry on* was engendered by the very special emotional support of all the guys around me . . . many of whom, at least, were fully as frightened as I. All I was aware of then was that I was able to function satisfactorily; but with the broader philosophical perspective of increasing age, I have concluded that the ability to function in the face of fear . . . rather than the absence of fear . . . is the mark of true courage. This is what we did for each other.

Secondly, I think we were held together by one common belief and commitment. Even in my youth, I knew that no country, even the United States, could lay claim to being perfect, and no cause could legitimately assert that all goodness was on its side. However, we believed . . . and, I think, justifiably believed that when measured on the eternal scale of truth, the greater good, the greater decency lay with what we were trying to accomplish. Fortunately for us and contrary to the plight of the poor young men involved in the Vietnam war, virtually everyone in the free world shared that commitment. And, since that time, I suspect that each of us in our own way has done what we

could to see that our country remains on the side of that greater good and decency. Few ties bind more closely, more permanently, than the common ideal, the shared cause.

Finally, I think our experience taught us a deep and lasting reverence for life. While it was our mission to inflict damage and take lives from the enemy, I am sure none of us has forgotten that we also lost lives in the process. Too many brave young men gave their lives for our side, men for whom we felt genuine affection, men who, by the grace of God shall always remain young because they can never grow old. We managed to accept those losses of our friends and still carry on, but they will always remain a hallowed memory. And in the remembering, we are acutely conscious of the terrible price which must often be paid in the defense of that greater decency. Let none say we love war—we know better, We simply believe that some things are worse.

As I said, we don't talk about these things, but they are very real to us. I think we are better citizens and better human beings because of them. And our association together is given a depth that it would not have were it based solely on good humor and funny stories.

As young men, little more than boys, we were given a job to do and I think we did it pretty damn well. So I propose to you a silent toast, one in which I hope you can join without embarrassment . . . it's to the greatest bunch of guys that I ever had the privilege of knowing . . . to us!

Deceased

C. Max Bayless, 368th pilot and POW (25 Feb 44, Augsburg), died March 18 at Stevenson, OR, where he had been a golf professional.

John Carlson, 423rd, died in July, 1984, in Westbury, NY.

Hector A. Chavez, 367th radio operator (Barrett's crew) and POW (12 Sep 44 w/Barr), died in 1981 in Anaheim, CA

M/Sgt. James H. Edney, 368th crew chief, died 4 June 85 in Memphis, TN. Edney crewed "Eager Beaver," and in mid-1944 received a Bronze Star medal.

Philip G. Griswold, 367th pilot (1944), died April 30 in Cloverdale, CA, of cancer. He had been mill superintendent for Precision Redwood Mfg. Co.

Bruce A. Hardy, 369th gunner (mid-1943), died 24 June 84 in Ballwin, MO.

Finis E. Hudson, 369th cook's helper (42-45), died March 14 at his home in Union City, TN.

Robert F. Jones, 367th navigator and POW (22 Dec 43, Osnabruck w/Winter), died 6 Oct 81 in Sioux City, IA

Seymour D. Ramby, group staff officer (late 42-27 Feb 45), has died at Dayton, OH, where he was an attorney. Served as provost marshal, PX officer, assistant material officer, bond officer, QM store officer, Site 9 CO, communal Site B

CO and station legal assistance officer.

Earl Reiff (later Patrick O'Driscoll), 352nd service squadron, died March 8 at Sturgis, MI.

Otto C. Swan, 368th navigator (Deck's crew), died March 12 in Rialto, CA. Swan remained very active, although he was totally blind the last six years of his life.

Earl E. Wynn, 369th ball turret gunner and POW (24 Apr 44 at Oberpfaffenhofen w/James), died 4 Dec 84 at Peoria, IL.

Newly-Found

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PRISON CAMP SCHOOL

Irving Mills composed this piece on the educational program in a prisoner of war camp sometime in 1946-47 while he was a student at American University, Washington, D.C. After graduation he entered the china manufacturing business, eventually landing in Phoenix and then Southern California. At

various times he was a management consultant, an executive for Carl Jrs., a senior vice president for a subsidiary of Holiday Inns, and a lobbyist in Washington, D.C., for the china manufacturing business. He is now retired and living in Sonoma, CA, where he is studying and tasting a local product—wine!

By Irving Mills

In order to understand and to appreciate the educational activities of Stalag 17B, it is necessary to look first at the environment where these activities took place.

Stalag 17B was the largest and oldest permanent prisoner of war camp for Air Force non-commissioned officers and was located in the foothills of the Austrian Alps, lying some 50 miles northwest of Vienna, near the Danube Valley. The camp itself occupied about one square mile, completely enclosed by barb wire fence. Within this fenced area smaller enclosures of barb wire, or as they were called, compounds, segregated prisoners of different nationalities.

When settled in October, 1943, the camp had some 45,000 prisoners of war. Of these, 1,356 were Americans. As the war progressed the population increased, reaching its peak in March, 1944, of roughly 75,000 men of which 4,235 were Americans. The main nationalities in the camp were Russian, French, Serbs, and Italians.

As might have been expected, the Americans represented a cross section of the U.S. Army Air Forces; their backgrounds and personalities differing as any such heterogeneous army group. There were men from every state in the union and every walk of life, from jockeys and gamblers to bankers and lawyers. Their educational backgrounds were as widely separated as were their occupations. Some men had only the bare rudiments of a formal elementary education; others had their master's and doctoral degrees. It is my belief that all of these men, regardless of their former education, learned a great deal about their fellow men.

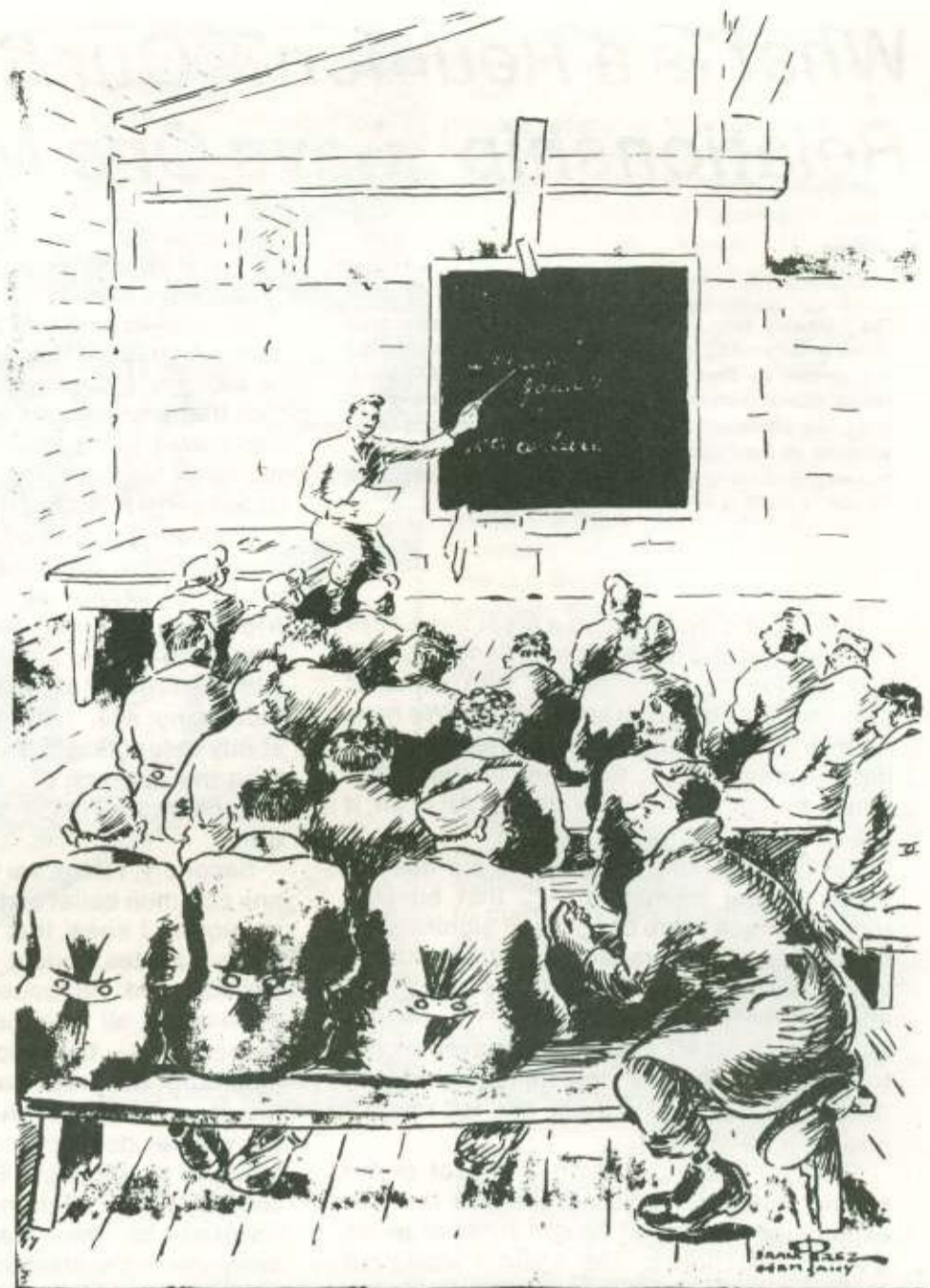
The American compound consisted of 12 barracks at the east end of the camp, each barrack was

197 feet long and 33 feet wide and had accommodations for 420 men. Each barrack was divided into A and B parts which were separated by what had once been a washroom. The bunks were a curious mass of scaffolding; three platforms, one on top of the other, each of these platforms being a bed for four men; each scaffolding holding twelve men. In all fairness to the Germans, I should mention that although these bunks were made for 12 men that we, as Americans commissioned and non-commissioned officers, were allowed the privilege of having only eight men in each bunk.

These bunks were the only furniture in the entire barracks in 1943. The building of benches, stools, chairs, or even shelves were verboten. There was one massive stove at each end of the barrack but unfortunately little coal and no wood was supplied. However, the resourcefulness of the men provided us with some heat by the simple means of tearing down what were deemed to be surplus parts of the wooden barracks. This same wood was also used to build furniture and by 1944 the Germans became reconciled to the fact that we were going to have furniture.

The Daily Routine

Barracks life began each morning at 7:00 with a roll call. After roll call we were allowed one cup of hot water per man. At 11:00 the midday meal, consisting of one cup of horrible soup, was brought to us. During the afternoon the daily bread ration was distributed. This consisted in the early part of the war of one loaf per six men but was constantly cut as the war turned for the worse for the Germans. Three boiled potatoes per man were ours at 5:00 p.m. and at 5:30 every evening the last roll call was



School days... a scene of the History class in our prison camp.

held. Health conditions in these barracks were deplorable and with little aid from the detaining power, we spent many weeks trying in a small way to bring our living quarters within sanitary bounds.

The monotony of prison life can well be imagined. These men, the majority of whom were between 19 and 25, having been snatched out of their exalted position as fliers, where privileges were many, were thrown into the long, dull monotony of routine camp life.

The first reaction of a man newly shot down was depression. The period of depression varied with the man. It is unfortunate to relate that some of these men never did snap out of this. However, the average length of depression was usually two weeks to a month. Then the man began to plan for his livelihood after the war, something which he had given little thought to while on combat duty. Now with nothing but time on his hands, he usually began to plan for a business, to draw plans of a dream cottage, or in general become hopeful.

Even during the darkest days of the war, when little good news was forthcoming, no one lost faith in the ultimate victory of the Allied forces. According to the Convention of Geneva of July 27, 1929,

relative to treatment of prisoners of war no commissioned or non-commissioned officers were compelled to work and as a result of a directive issued by the Kommandant of our Stalag, Americans were not permitted without guard beyond the wire fence. As a result, it was necessary to organize programs of entertainment, religious services, educational, and as many forms of recreation as were possible. The primary purpose of all of these programs was escape, not physical escape but mental escape from the realism of the harsh prison life. The educational program played a major part in the accomplishment of these diversions.

Organization

The purpose of an educational program as it was originally planned was to keep men mentally active. This purpose was later set aside and in its place was developed a school which could show educational records of value to recognized institutions. The planning for the school began during the early part of November, 1943, when a rough outline of its organization, administration, and operation were presented to the German authorities, along with a proposed list of courses. This plan was approved by the Germans

mainly because of the many complaints of conditions in our camp from our own State Department as well as the inspecting officers of the Geneva Convention, and they wished to make as good an impression as possible on the inspectors who were scheduled to arrive the latter part of the same month. The "A" end of one of the barracks was allotted as a school building.

Construction was started immediately on class rooms, library, and education office; a tentative opening date of February 1, 1944, was set. Materials for library shelves and for classroom walls were refused by the Germans. However, they did let us use for four months each day one hammer and a saw. The Red Cross food parcel containers served as partitions between classrooms and wood, from various sources, provided library shelves.

As a result of the hard efforts of some of the men, six classrooms and the library shelves were completed after two weeks of skillful improvisation. We arranged our class rooms in the classical manner with rows of wooden benches and the traditional table in the front of the room for the instructor. Due to the size of the rooms and the small number of benches, it was necessary to limit the classes to 40 men.

At the same time, the administrative foundation of the school was laid and plans were drawn for the registration survey which was to mark the initial venture of the educational program. A letter was written to the European Society of Student Relief outlining the proposed educational program and asking for all available aid in furthering its aims. Supplies, such as notebooks, blackboards, chalk, pencils, and a selected list of textbooks were requested. Other agencies in Geneva, such as the War Prisoners Aid of the Y.M.C.A. and the International Bureau of Education, were also solicited for their help and cooperation. Sometime in January, 1944, the man who had first conceived the idea of a school and to whose untiring work it owed its growth, made the rounds of each barrack giving all the particulars of the school program and announcing the time and dates for the first registration of courses. The core of the curriculum offered was as follows:

Algebra
American History
Auto Mechanics
Business Law
Commercial Geography
English
French
German
Music
Photography
Shorthand
Spanish

These subjects were chosen because of their general interest to the men and because instructors for these subjects were available.

The instructors were chosen mainly because of their interest and willingness to instruct. I am sorry to relate that there were many professional teachers in camp who would not volunteer their services. However, every man who did volunteer his services was selected on the following basis:

1. That they possess a clear understanding of the subject matter they were to teach.



2. That they be willing to work and work hard in the absence of material compensation.

3. That they be willing to take suggestions and instruction on methods of subject presentation, testing and other factors in the teaching-learning process.

The status of the teacher in our camp was unique. He had many privileges and prerogatives and was looked upon with a great deal of respect by the other men. He could use the library any time during the day and even after closing hours. He could use the school office, where there was some heat, to study and draw up his lessons. In the barracks, he was expected to know the answer to any question thrown at him. The teacher did not have to participate in the weekly cleaning of the barracks as he was considered already working for the good of the camp. So in many instances, the instructor led the ideal life of a scholar, not being bothered with the many petty things of life in a prison camp.

The registration for the subjects mentioned was held for three days the last week of January, during

which time almost 800 men requested enrollment in at least two of the subjects listed. The purpose of the registration was twofold: first to enroll the men and secondly to gather pertinent information of educational value. Each man who registered was briefly interviewed and the following information recorded:

1. Name, rank, serial number, POW number.

proved highly successful. It enabled students in some subjects to be classed homogeneously and provided the educational director with valuable information for meeting student personnel problems and also to plan an enlarged curriculum. It indicated, too, the degree of interest in the various subject fields. Based on the first registration results, the popularity of the subjects were as follows:

1. Algebra
2. Spanish
3. Auto Mechanics
4. German
5. French
6. Business Law
7. Photography
8. Shorthand
9. English
10. Music
11. American History
12. Commercial Geography

Operation

Owing to the inexperience of most of the school staff in the actual running of a school, they had to fall back on their experiences within their own school systems, either as a pupil or as instructor. It was found that although the operation at first seemed complex, most of these major problems were worked out and solved on a trial and error method.

School was held every day except Friday and Sunday. There were no classes on Friday because of the distribution on that day of Red Cross food parcels. There were six regularly scheduled periods, each 40 minutes in length, beginning at 9:00 a.m. and ending at 8:10 p.m. The noon recess was one hour and fifteen minutes long, allowing ample time for students to prepare and eat their meal. This schedule, sandwiched between roll calls, was found to work very smoothly and remained in force during the entire life of the school. A large cardboard clock with movable hands was located outside of the educational office designating the period that was in session. A man from this office regulated the clock every 40 minutes and notified each instructor a few minutes before the conclusion of the class period.

School attendance on the first day of classes, February, 1944, was 825 men who attended the 35 classes scheduled. The attendance fluctuated from a low of 800 to a high of over 1,400. These

2. Barrack number.

3. Education (last grade reached, degrees, or certificates).

4. First and second choice of subjects he wished to study.

5. What subjects not included on the list would he care to study.

Wherever possible students were enrolled in both their first and second choices of subject. Time and room, of course, limited the number of classes in each subject but it was possible to give every man his first choice. If his second choice was not one of the more popular subjects, he was given that too. The registration survey

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figures, however, must be viewed with the thought that one man might have been enrolled for as many as five subjects. The total number of men enrolled was 4,520, of which 2,232 completed courses.

The fluctuation in attendance was due to four major factors. First, and probably most important, was the weather. Due to the lack of fuel in both the barracks and the school, the most comfortable place during the winter months was the bunks. So, during the winter a great many of the men preferred to get books from the library and read in the bunks. If they did come to class, it was impossible to take notes as the temperature in the classroom was usually between zero and 30°. Due to the lack of vitamins in the men's diet, many of the men had an acute swelling of the feet and hands. All these, of course, added up to a rather low attendance during the winter time. During the spring and the fall attendance was at its highest as the classrooms were rather comfortable. During the summer, however, the attendance again dropped due largely to the fact that the men preferred to be out of doors and in the warmth of the sun, and also many men could not overcome the habit of knocking off for a summer vacation. The administration of the school decided that it would be best, however, under our conditions to continue school during the summer months.

When anything went wrong as far as the Germans were concerned, either inside the camp or with the general progress of the war, it was not unlikely that we would have nuisance roll calls. As I have already mentioned, we had two regular roll calls which did not interfere with the school program. However, some days we would have as many as 10 roll calls, each taking probably about one hour. Due to our grapevine system, we usually knew when these roll calls were coming so if most men knew that there was going to be roll call at ten o'clock, they would not bother to show up for the nine o'clock class. In the last few months of the war, our school attendance was affected greatly due to these roll calls.

Vienna being one of the major targets of the Allied Air Forces, we could expect at least one air raid a day and as the war neared its end, the raids became more frequent and also took in many of the smaller targets quite near our camp. All the men in the camp, having been fliers, were especially afraid of bombs falling outside the target area and perhaps landing in our camp. For the most part, classes were not excused during raid but as soon as the bombs began to whistle classrooms were emptied in a very few minutes.

During one particular air raid on a town about two kilometers from our camp, bombs began to fall



This is an example of how we lived.

quite close and our English teacher, who had a class at the time, without thinking dove out the window, ran about ten yards and then from force of habit, ran back to the window and yelled "class dismissed" to the startled students. These interruptions, of course, threw class schedules into an uproar. It did not help us in trying to maintain a normal school.

The progress of the war strongly affected the men in their attendance. In June of 1944 for instance, when the Allied invasion of Normandy took place, most of the men thought the war would be over in a matter of weeks and thought it useless to start a new course or continue on with a course that had only recently started. The same held true with any major set-backs. The men felt they could attend class "later on."

There were a few men in camp who refused to attend school at all because they felt that the instructors could teach them nothing. These men were usually older men who felt that these younger men who were the instructors knew less than they did. But on the whole the majority of the men appreciated what the instructors were trying to do and afforded them every possible courtesy.

Rather than delve into the operations of each individual course, I will instead concentrate on my own course in American history. It must be remembered that the problems, pupil interest and attitudes, etc., are not singular to this one course but instead hold true to all the courses. I took the position as

instructor for the main purpose of keeping my own mind active in prison camp. I had seen, in the few short months I had been there before I began to teach, many men begin to deteriorate mentally.

The course I taught was a standard course in United States history, although I added and subtracted from the textbook where I thought it necessary. I was able to do this because, unlike most instructors in our school systems in the States, I was not hampered by the educational director of a Board of Education. I was given the textbooks available; told that the course should last 14 weeks, although I was not held to this either; and the teaching and handling of the class was left entirely to me.

I took the liberty of subtracting most of the actual battles and campaigns of the various wars and added the culture of the particular period, such as art, architecture, clothing styles, and more. I also fitted the class to the type of students. Some of my classes lasted only eight weeks, some of them lasted 16 or 18 where I felt it necessary to give a short course in political science and economics for a better understanding of the history.

I was fortunate in having men in the camp who were experts on subjects that were particularly interesting to students of history. These men gave their time willingly as guest lecturers. In all, there were about eight guest lecturers during a course. Pupil interest in the course was naturally high

because it was neither required by law nor was there any social prestige attached to finishing a course. Many of the men came to me when I first started to teach and wanted to know if I was going to teach the same old "baloney" that they had been taught in high school, most of them being rather disillusioned in their ideas by the "cherry tree conception" that they had been exposed to. Pupil interest was highest in discussing the cause and effects of this war.

At the outset of the course very little emphasis was placed on either grades or examinations. However, after we had learned of the G.I. Bill of Rights and of USAFI courses, the school director decided that if tests and grades were available, it would be possible to get accreditation for the courses. I began to give very comprehensive tests and graded them accordingly. As the students had no textbooks, the four that were available were circulated among them thus making it impossible for a student to cram just before any of the five examinations.

I also drew upon the resources of our limited library and requested outside reading, not only technical books on economics, political science, and phases of history, but also historical novels. In the hands of a more experienced instructor this course might have been more experimental than it was, but owing to my limited experience I naturally fell back on the standard classroom procedures. I can see now that this made for an inevitable barrier between pupil and teacher and upon many occasions I found it almost impossible to drag questions from them. The pupil-to-pupil relationship was one of great cooperation and outside of school time the men spent many hours in hotly debated historical questions. This barrier I have spoken of, however, has one advantage for the instructor as I found that no one questioned my authority as a history instructor. This may be a fault, but I am sure many of our best instructors in high schools and colleges have found this barrier a source of considerable comfort.

Administration

The administration was in the hands of an educational director and his assistant. It was their duty to deal with the Germans, do what clerical work there was to be done, write the letters to the different relief organizations who were trying to help us, and in general see that the school was run as nearly as possible on a high academic level.

There were very few policies that the director insisted upon. One was that the instructors look as neat and as clean as possible and two, that no profane language be used by the instructors. These two points were very important in making the school attractive and respected by the men. The majority of the men were not clean shaven

and it was very difficult for them to try to keep clean. Also, as with any group of men who have been away from the niceties of life for quite a while, their language sunk deeper and deeper.

The name of the school was "The Interned Airmen's Institute" and it offered a printed certificate of merit to all students completing courses.

There were many problems in the administration of the school, the biggest, of course, being the relations with the detaining power. Several members of the German Security Office professed academic interest in the functions of our school program. However, this interest was easily recognized as being more of an official nature than a scholastic one.

Several times each week surprise visits were made by the Germans, for they were naturally suspicious of any program the prisoners voluntarily started. The school administration tried to make a policy of being as friendly as possible during these visits to gain the respect for the school in the eyes of the Germans. We hoped that, owing to the considerable amount of reverence and respect that was held by some classes of Germans, to get their cooperation in supplying papers, pencils, and other supplies. Unfortunately this plan failed miserably.

Another of the major problems confronting the administration was the question of coordinating the different courses as in a normal high school or college. After consulting with the instructors, the

director decided to try an experiment and we organized a high school requirement course geared, we hoped, to suit the needs of men who had not graduated from high school. The three courses that we were able to offer and that were required in high school were mathematics, English, and history. Seventy-five men registered for the first class, however, only 20 completed the course. As was to be expected, we made a great many errors in this experiment; so many, in fact, that the plan was dropped entirely. The initial mistake was made when we scheduled the course to run for three consecutive hours with ten minute breaks at the end of every sixty minutes. Each subject was allowed fifty minutes and with the change of subjects, naturally a change of instructors. For my own part, I tried to instruct Ancient, Medieval, and Modern World History in 13 weeks. The course soon developed the nickname of the "Three Ring Circus" and the grind proved too much for both students and instructors.

To be concluded
in the
October issue
of Echoes

Plan 1986 Reunion at Dayton, OH

Plans are underway for the 1986 reunion of the 306th Bomb Group Association, with arrangements already being made in Dayton, OH.

A highlight of the event would be the dedication of a marker and the planting of a memorial tree in front of the USAF Museum at Wright-Patterson AFB.

"To those 306th men who have not yet attended a reunion, or who have never visited the USAF museum, we think it will be a double treat," says John Grimm, who did much of the early investigation of the site.

At a meeting April 13, fifteen former 306th members were in attendance, along with several wives. Grimm and Demetrius Chakiris agreed to serve as co-chairmen for the event.

Besides those appointed to committees, also in attendance were John Bairnsfather, onetime group intelligence officer; Russell Strong, secretary of the association, and Bill Collins, association treasurer.

Committees set up at the meeting were: Registration: Jim Sheets, chairman, Walt Latscha and George Horner; Gift Shop: Al Rehn, chairman, Don Marsh, Horner, Ernest Higham, Grover Ingram and George Dufau; Museum Tour: Doug DeLaVars, chairman, and Bill Rich; Banquet: Dick Argo,

'Fifty Mission Crush'

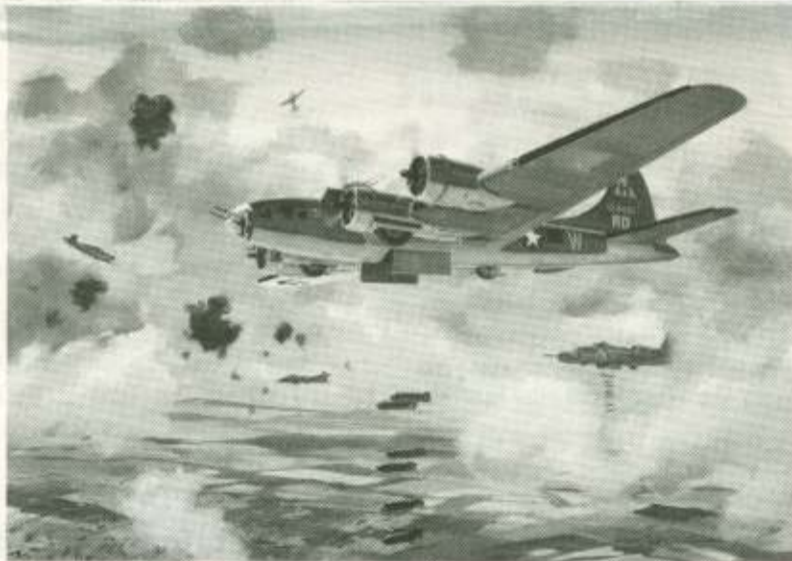
"Fifty Mission Crush," "Fly a B-17 with the 306th Bomb Group" is the title and come-on for a personal computer game, reports Bart Smith. He reports that the game is quite accurate, is set in the 1943-44 period, the home base is Thurleigh, and even some of the planes bear familiar 306th names. Smith says "It assigns missions of the time, provides fighter attacks by ME-109's, FW-190's and ME-110's, and flak."

Soaring in Colorado

Bart Smith, a 367th pilot, would remind everyone that soaring is a terrific avocation for any former birdman, adding that Colorado Springs has excellent soaring conditions during the time of the 1985 306th reunion. Another avid soaring pilot is Tom Hulings, onetime 368th CO. Are there others?

chairman, and Rudy Mason; Women's Program: Mrs. John Grimm, chair, and Mrs. Walt Latscha.

Dates have been set for Sept. 11-14 at the Daytona Holiday Inn South, which lies along I-75 adjacent to the Dayton Mall.



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Reunion Registration

306th Bomb Group Reunion Committee
c/o Eduardo M. Montoya
P.O. Box 25883
Colorado Springs, Colorado 80936

- I will attend the 306th BG reunion and will bring _____ family members with me. Enclosed is \$_____ (\$25.00 registration fee **Per person**). I understand that these funds will be committed early and therefore will not be refundable after 1 August, 1985.
- (I am) (We are) staying at the Clarion Hotel and (i have made) (I will soon make) my own reservations by direct correspondence with the hotel.
- I am arranging for accommodations at a place other than the Clarion Hotel but will participate in reunion activities.
- I will need parking space for a Recreation Vehicle (with) (with no) hook-up.
- I am arriving at Colorado Springs on Flight # _____, _____ Airline, scheduled to arrive Colorado Springs at _____ (a.m.) (p.m.) _____ Sept. '85.
- I was shot down over enemy territory and evaded capture.
- I was shot down, captured, and escaped.
- I was a P.O.W. until liberated.
- I was a member of the _____ Sqdn. My crew position or other duty was _____.
- I want (my) (our) reunion name tags to read: _____.

Signature _____

Address _____

Zip _____

8th AF Sets Wichita Party

The 1985 Air War Symposium will be held at 1 p.m. October 17, in Wichita, KS, as the opening feature of the 8th AF Association reunion. "Aces in the European Theatre of Operations" will be the featured topic.

The reunion opens October 17

and continues through the 20th.

Persons interested in the reunion who are not members of the association should write Bob Vickers, 6424 Torreon Dr., NE, Albuquerque, NM 87109 for particulars and registration materials.

OPTIONAL EVENTS

Thursday, September 5th:

Buses load at 4:45 p.m. at Clarion Hotel for Chuckwagon Dinner and Western entertainment at the Flying W Ranch. Group rate is \$8.50 per person for dinner and entertainment. Bus fare is \$5.00 per person, round trip. You may drive, but bus transportation is recommended. We can reserve bus seats for you, but you must pay and pick up your bus tickets at the "Tour" desk registration line.

Saturday, September 7th:

Buses load at 11:00 a.m. at the Clarion Hotel for a trip to the top of Pike's Peak by Cog Railway. Group rate for the Railway Trip is \$10.00 per person. These tickets must be pre-paid and are non-refundable after August 20, 1985. Bus fare to and from the Railway Station is \$5.00 per person. Again, you may drive, but bus transportation is recommended.

TO: 306th Bomb Group Reunion Committee
c/o Eduardo M. Montoya
P.O. Box 25883
Colorado Springs, CO 80936

Please reserve the following tickets for me, check enclosed:

Flying W Ranch _____ tickets @ \$ 8.50 each = \$ _____
Cog Railway _____ tickets @ \$10.00 each = \$ _____
306th Banquet/Dance _____ tickets @ \$20.00 each = \$ _____
TOTAL Check Enclosed \$ _____

Please send me my tickets

Please hold my tickets for pickup at registration

Please reserve bus transportation for me (no money now) as follows:

_____ seats to Flying W Ranch
_____ seats to Cog Railway

/s/ _____

Hotel Registration

Reservations are accepted on a GUARANTEED basis only.

GUARANTEED RESERVATIONS:

- send a deposit of one night's room charge plus tax (_____ %)
- include your credit card (Am/Ex, D/C, M/C, VISA or C/B only). If you do not cancel directly with the hotel 48 hours prior to arrival, you will be billed by the credit card company for one night's lodging, plus tax.

CANCELLATIONS: Please don't be a "NO SHOW." If you cannot stay with us, please cancel your non-guaranteed reservation by calling the hotel or our toll free number 800-362-6000. To cancel a GUARANTEED reservation, contact the hotel directly at least 48 hours prior to arrival and obtain a Cancellation Number.

CHECK-OUT: Check-out time is 11 a.m. Therefore, CHECK-IN is not guaranteed prior to 3 p.m.

PLEASE NOTE: Reservations made after August 5, 1985, will be subject to Higher Rates and space availability.

Name of Group: 306th BOMB GROUP

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Please check type of room requested

Rollaways @ \$10.00 Nightly

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Guest rooms for this meeting are held as listed. Any variation is subject to availability.

Arrival: Thursday, September 5, 1985

Departure: Sunday, September 8, 1985

PLEASE MAKE MY RESERVATIONS FOR:

Arrival: _____ Departure: _____

Month _____ Month _____

Day _____ Day _____

Time _____ Time _____

GUARANTEED RESERVATION

Deposit included AMX DC MC CB

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