

Dec 1990

449th Bomb Group Association "FLYING HORSEMEN"



WINTER '90 NEWSLETTER

REUNION #5

449TH BOMB GROUP (WW2)



ROUND UP TIME IN TEXAS!

Yes, it's time to "round 'em all up" . . . the 449th "Flying Horsemen," that is! And it is in

the Springtime this year, versus the usual Fall Roundup time! Per the planned time established after the Cincinnati/Ft. Mitchell, Kentucky, Reunion, this 5th REUNION is being held in HOUSTON, Texas . . . at the SHERATON ASTRODOME HOTEL (the large lighted sign says "THE SHERATON"). This is the former Astro Village Hotel that has received a complete makeover and is now franchised by the Sheraton Hotel Corporation. The property owner is the same organization that operates the Astrodome and its overall complex and various athletic organizations. Our 449th Association members will hold all of its meetings at this hotel; the tours will begin and end there.

This NEWSLETTER contains all the planned events and information about the Reunion!! Read it over carefully . . . note that there are two inserts: (1) the Advance Registration Form; and (2) the Hotel Reservation Form. Complete your Advance Registration Form and send the full sheet to the Association Secretary (name and address is on the sheet) with your \$15.00 Registration Fee (all members are required to pay the usual registration fee in advance or at the 449th Registration tables upon arrival). Complete your Hotel Reservation Form and call or mail the information; the numbers for registration are 1-800-627-6461 or (713) 748-3221 for your rooms.

NOTE: you must make your own reservation with the Hotel. Making advance registration with the 449th Association insures us of the numbers coming, the places "to set" for each buffet or dinner, the seats required for the bus tours . . . all very important!! The Registration Fee defrays the expense of planning, costs of each event, printing costs, program preparations, correspondence, telephone contacts, and envelope costs.



We have made arrangements with two airlines to be co-host airlines for this 5th Reunion . . . **CONTINENTAL AND EASTERN AIRLINES**, each have their own numbers and codes to use; both have the same rates!! Read the enclosed AIRLINE INFORMATION carefully.

We have included a copy of a local map with *directions to find the SHERATON Hotel* via highway travel. *NOTE: Houston has two large airports: Houston International is on the far north side of town, and the William Hobby Airport is on the southeast side of town . . . be sure you know which airport you are using . . . International label is IAH . . . Hobby is HOU!! Make sure your luggage and your ticket have the same airport!!!*

We recommend you book your travel into the HOBBY Airport . . . it is closer, it costs less to arrive at the Hotel, and it takes much less time to go its 12 miles than from International (IAH), which is across town, 25 miles north!! HOBBY Airport is used by BOTH AIRLINES, as is INTERNATIONAL, but much closer!!!

*Merry Christmas
and a
Happy New Year!*



ARRIVING BY HIGHWAY TRAVEL: Houston is a very large area!! It is served by several Interstate highways and U.S. routes. ALL connect with the encircling LOOP 610 Interstate. From any directional approach, proceed until you encounter LOOP 610 and proceed to the South Loop area, exiting at the KIRBY DRIVE exit! The SHERATON sign can be seen from the highway, and the Hotel is directly across from the ASTRODOME sports complex itself, seen from a longer distance.

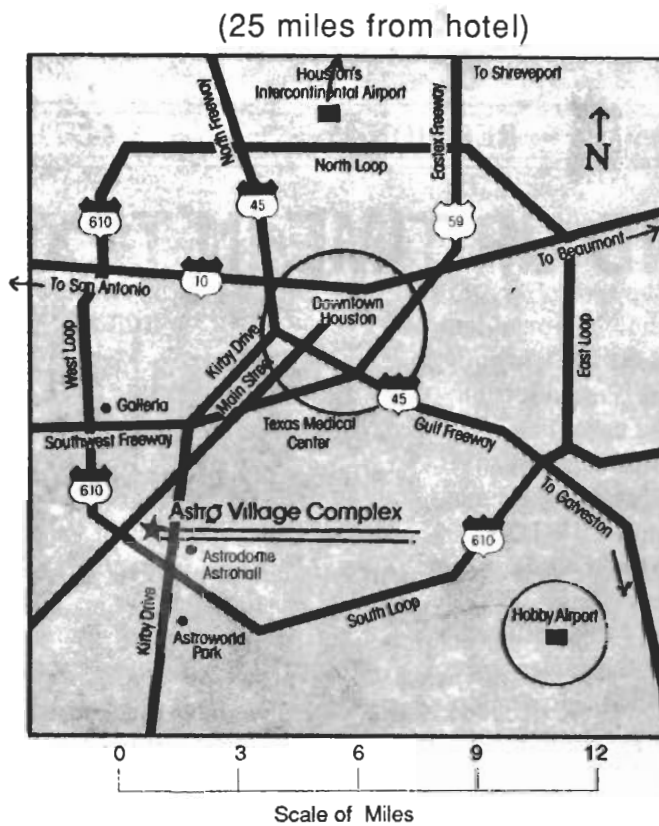
ARRIVING VIA AIRLINE TRAVEL: Note the location of the two Airports!! Houston International (IAH) is on the far north side . . . Hobby Airport (HOU) is but 12 miles, and just

ESE from the Hotel. Note: All hotels in the area do not supply complimentary airport transportation, and all have organized shuttle service via contracted carriers (name unknown). At both airports you must locate the "Ground Transportation" signs at the baggage areas, and book shuttle bus transport to a common point for the hotel pickup points. The SHERATON will pick you up, at no expense, from these intermediate terminals.

From IAH: proceed to South Main Terminal, cost \$8.70 each, and enter the waiting area. Make your phone call to the SHERATON ASTRODOME. Hours for this terminal are: 5:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. After 4:00 p.m. you must proceed to the Greenway Terminal, same cost, and also place a pickup call to the SHERATON. The hours for this Greenway Terminal are: 4:00 p.m. to 12:30 a.m.

From HOU (Hobby Airport): proceed from Ground Transportation counter to the South-Main Terminal, cost \$4.50 each; and enter the waiting area and place your call for pickup by the

SHERATON ASTRODOME. Hours for this terminal are: 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. After 4:00 p.m. you must proceed to the Harvey Suites Hotel and make a pay local call to the SHERATON ASTRODOME for pickup. This procedure closes at 11:30 p.m.



THE SHERATON is at the "Astro Village."

SPECIAL NOTE: These procedures are for all hotels in the Houston area except for a very few hotels at the edge of the airport in the IAH area visited by your committee and found to be much too expensive for overall 449th attendees. Local hotel competition has burdened each hotel with airport arrival problems.

Scheduling your arrival time is most important; it will make your travel easier but slightly more time consuming . . . do follow these instructions, and you will make your arrivals easier.

Yes, taxis do run . . . but are a little more costly. If you are arriving with not much time to spare, a taxi would be recommended. Similarly, if you have any infirmities, a taxi will make your arrival easier. All arrivals after 11:30 p.m. at Hobby Airport and all arrivals after 12:30 a.m. at International Houston Airport must take taxis; each of the hotel pickup points are closed during the "wee" hours.

BEST TIME FOR ARRIVAL for airline travel or highway travel is during mid-day of Tuesday, April 9th!! This will enable you to arrive in good time for all events and in a leisurely manner . . . plan your trip!!

Copies of our History book, "Grottaglie and Home," will be available at the Reunion . . . have your friends sign your copy!



50% Off full Coach Fares
50% Off full First Class Fares
5% Off lowest applicable fare*
 *Rules and restrictions apply.



EASTERN AND CONTINENTAL AIRLINES are our CO-HOST airlines for Reunion!!

NOTE: Be sure to read pages 1 and 2 regarding ground travel from the two Houston area airports to the Reunion hotel!!

For EASTERN Airlines: Call their Convention Central, 1-800-325-7597; refer to Easy Access Number EZ4EP58.

Their hours of operation are: 8:00 a.m. EST to 8:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.

For CONTINENTAL Airlines: Call their Convention Desk, 1-800-468-7022. Refer to their Easy Access Number EZ4P67.

Hours of operation: Monday through Friday 6 a.m. to 11:59 CST, Saturday and Sunday 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. CST.

For both airlines: rate discounts, above, apply to both . . . valid dates of travel are same for both, April 4 through April 18, 1991 . . . thus you can start out early and come home at a later date or any of the times in between.

Frequency of landings into HOBBY Airport favors EASTERN Airlines, for some of the CONTINENTAL Airlines airlift by commuter from IAH to a third airport (Ellington Field, former navigational training center in WW2) which is further to the SE than Hobby Airport and another ground transportation connection from Ellington to the South Main Terminal (ask at the baggage area, if used).

NOTE: Neither Eastern nor Continental lands scheduled airline traffic at Ellington, only connection from IAH by arrangement with Continental.

Recommendation: plan both travels and select the one that fits the Reunion schedule and your schedule the best.

REGISTRATION

Follow the procedures on the "Advance Registration Sheet" enclosed with this Newsletter . . . upon arrival at the hotel, check into your room and proceed to the 449th Association registration tables in the large Foyer/Pre-Function area by the Sam Houston Ballroom! The Hospitality/Memorabilia Rooms are adjacent, in the Gulfcoast 1 & 2 attached rooms. It is at either of these two areas that you can meet all of your friends . . . but be sure to register as soon as you can right after you place your articles in your room!!

All registrants will receive their programs, name tags, instructions and information about all the events. Your tickets for each event that you indicated to attend will be in your registration envelope, so bring your checkbook to pay for them . . . do not send any money in your advance registration other than your registration fee . . . Registration will begin the morning of Tuesday, April 9, and continue throughout the Reunion, except during the hours after 7 p.m.

TUESDAY, 9TH APRIL, 1991: "ARRIVAL DAY"

Registration begins at 1000 hours. A social hour with open bar begins 6 p.m. for an hour preceding the opening "GET ACQUAINTED" Buffet. The Buffet begins at 7 p.m. and will end prior to 11 p.m.

The informal evening will include opening announcements, introductions, and overall Reunion instructions and will permit everyone to get a good night's sleep in preparation for the first tour day and the Golf Tourney Day of Wednesday the 10th.

We will have two full tours, divided into two days . . . seating at the NASA Control Room for tours 1B and 2B limit the numbers . . . as does the seating at the I-MAX Theatre for tours 1A and 2A. Plan one per day to enjoy the fullest amount of information and sightseeing!!!!

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 10, 1991

A continental breakfast is available for those who do not want a full breakfast in the hotel restaurant. This is for 7:30 a.m. to 8:30 a.m. in preparation to taking Tours 1A and 1B. Both tours begin at 9 a.m. and return at 4:15 p.m. The same tours run the next day as Tours 2A and 2B . . . so be sure to book one tour for Wednesday and the other for Thursday.

The Men's **GOLF TOURNEY** is held this Wednesday, the 10th. Dr. Jim Frierson is the Golf Committeeman for this tourney, 717th Pilot. The **COUNTRY PLACE GOLF CLUB** is the course, and golfers will convene in the **Hospitality Room** at 10:00 a.m. Entry fee for this 18-hole tourney (the others were 9-hole tourneys) is **\$25.00 per player**, which includes green fees, cart, range balls before teeing off, taxes and service charge!

Frierson has arranged for a "shotgun start" at 12:30 p.m., giving golfers time for practice shots, etc. Cart labels, scorecards and scoresheets will be prepared.

Dress code: shorts must be **mid-thigh** in length and shirts must have **collars and sleeves**. Mark your advance registration sheet for this tourney!! Prizes will be awarded.



The Houston Astrodome

TOUR "A": Begins at 0900 hours, visiting the **ASTRODOME** for a seated interior presentation and sports gift shop visit.

The bus tour will proceed through the Texas Medical Center, Rice University, and the Museum of Natural Science area, stopping for an I-MAX Theater presentation, seated. The **I-MAX** screen is six stories tall and 80 feet wide, using six-track stereo sound (a similar I-MAX is being built at the USAF Museum, to be open also in April '91). The price of the I-MAX presentation is also included in your ticket.



Lunch will be served en route by stopping at the **Log Cabin of the Daughters of the Republic of Texas** for **both days**. (The cost of the box lunch comes with **your tour ticket**.)

The tour continues through the downtown Houston area, the River Oaks area, to the Galleria shopping complex, with a stop (time permitting) at a Water Wall (yes, a wall). Return time is 4:15 p.m.

TOUR "B": Begins loading at 9:00 a.m., also. Buses will proceed to different points to "stagger" the number to enter the **NASA Control Room**.

Visits will be made to; the San Jacinto Monument and Museum of History (the site of the Texas Independence and victory over Santa Anna, the Mexican forces that killed those at the Alamo, San Antonio); the adjacent **Battleship Texas**, the veteran of WW1 and WW2, Iwo Jima and Okinawa; to name a couple . . . refurbished and located adjacent to the **San Jacinto Monument**.

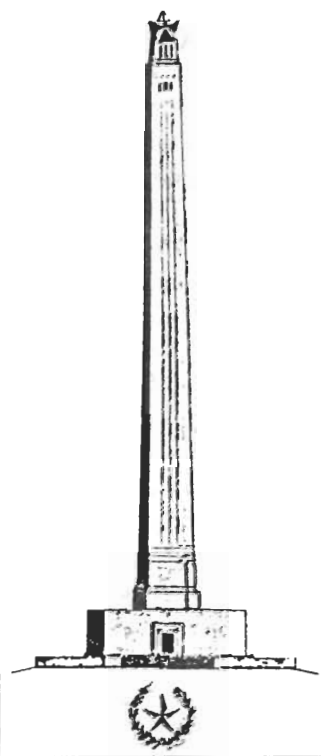
Lunch is en route, paid in your tour ticket, at Lakewood Yacht Club.

You will visit the NASA Space Center for a visitors' briefing in the Space Control Center (which you have seen on national TV for many astronaut and space flight programs). Your return is also at 4:15 p.m.

Remember to plan one tour per **day**; a seating limit necessitates our divisions . . . do the **A-City** Tour one day and the **B-NASA** tour the **other day** . . . in either order.

Wednesday evening: Social hour between 7 and 8 p.m., giving everyone time for a **breather** after the tours, and the evening **SQUADRON DINNERS** (sit-down dinners this year, for each squadron) . . . rooms will be announced. Meet all your squadron friends at this evening dinner!

SAN JACINTO MONUMENT AND MUSEUM OF HISTORY



THURSDAY 11TH APRIL, 1991: "2ND TOUR DAY"

The continental breakfast is available between 7:30 and 8:30 a.m. if you do not eat at the hotel restaurant. And the **two TOURS** begin loading at 9:00 a.m. . . . read **the tour items** on the previous page for places of visit . . . be sure and book one A-TOUR and one B-TOUR; one for Wednesday and one for Thursday in order to see all offered . . . lunch is included each day with your ticket price at the locations mentioned. Each tour returns at 4:15 p.m.

A social hour is between 7:00 and 8:00 p.m. after your short breather from the tours . . . and the evening program is an evening of "TEX/MEX" dining and entertainment . . . all are asked to wear something Western or Mexican for this one evening; we will have strolling "Mariachi" players and a staged entertainment of "Mexican Dancers" . . . just how Western you want to go, is up to you . . . at least bring a Western shirt . . . perhaps a false moustache? Whatever!!! The buffet will be an "On The Ranch" Western buffet!!!! (no guns allowed).

FRIDAY, 12TH APRIL, 1991: "MEMORIAL BRUNCH AND BANQUET NIGHT"

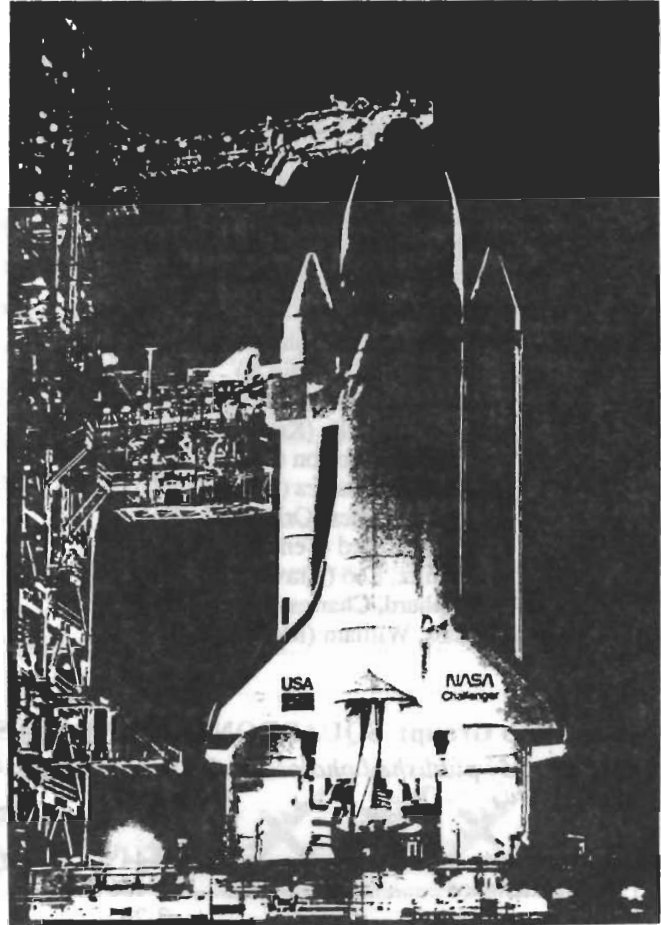
Hold off on your breakfast this morning if you can . . . for we will have a **brunch** and a **Memorial Program** to follow. The brunch will begin at 10:00 a.m. followed by the Memorial Service which should end by 12:00 noon or 12:30 p.m., at the latest.

Transportation is being furnished for the ladies to have an afternoon of shopping at **The Galleria** of Houston, "from Python boots to exquisite duck, a wealth of adventure" . . . three levels of indoor mall, a center indoor ice rink (I started to count the number of stores listed and gave up!!!!) . . . anyone who likes to "shop" can find most anything that catches their eye . . . and the whole visit can be extended over into Saturday if one gets carried away!!

At 1:00 p.m. the men members will hold their **business meeting** . . . many important subjects!!!! To reprint books 1-2 for those who missed out, to print another book, or addendum, for the many photos and stories gathered since Book #3 . . . following reunions . . . etc.

A social hour will be held prior to the banquet, 6:00 to 7:00 p.m., with the **Reunion Banquet** beginning at 7:00 p.m. This will be a combination Banquet and Dinner-Dance, for we have booked the Hal Woolery Dance Band, who have demonstrated they know WW2 music which they will play for us.

A special **B-2 Stealth Bomber Briefing** with slides and film projector is scheduled, but confirmation cannot be given until the beginning of the year. This can be inserted with the Memorial Brunch or into the Dinner-Dance when confirmed by the B-2 Project Staff.



SATURDAY, 13TH APRIL 1991

The close of the banquet, on Friday night, is the close of the Reunion . . . but we have learned that the **HOUSTON ASTRO** Baseball team is in town. Opening night is that Friday and booked up . . . but we are promised a block of tickets for the **449th Bomb Group** for those who want to see a Major League baseball game, and for those who want to see a ballgame played in the **ASTRODOME!** Be sure to mark your Advance Registration sheet; the Game is for Saturday night at 7:00 p.m. Seats are in Mezzanine with a special rate of \$10.00 each . . . stay over for the ballgame and return home on Sunday, or later . . .



"NEW NAMES"

Add these new members to your rosters! These are fellow veterans of the 449th that have been located and entered since the last Newsletter "new name lists" of the SPRING '90 NEWSLETTER. (Some have been entered in the last Reunion Album membership roster).

716TH SQUADRON:

Daywalt, Mrs. B. (Ode's daughter)
 Ferage, Warren, (Cornwall TG)
 Fermano, Antonio (Hanson N)
 Gaus, Joseph ("Hey Mac" chief)
 Guinn, Mrs. J. (Bolts R/O)
 Hydar, Joseph (Claybaugh N)
 Massino, Anthony (Messinger G)
 McAnally, Justin (Oien B)
 Runkle, George (orig. Sq. Ord. O)
 Smith, Clyde (Cornwall WG)
 Wilkins, Oscar (Alexander TG)

718TH SQUADRON:

Bloomingtondale, John (Austin B)
 Buser, Bill (McFain B)
 Eminizer, Robert (McFain NG)
 Hollister, L. K. (Krawiec WG)
 Klayman, Morton (DeFoe N)
 Lamarca, Charles (Kendall, BG)
 Minow, James (Orig. Crew P)
 Royalty, Fred (Temchulla CP)
 Schmitz, Leo (Krawiec F/E)
 Shepherd, Charles (Porter TG)
 Yates, William (McFain BG)

717TH SQUADRON:

Chmielewski, Henry (Miller N)
 Jeffries, Harvey (Miller NG)
 Jungling, Harry (cook)
 Klein, Merle (Grover TG)
 Mulvey, Gordon (Rad. N/B)
 Pollard, H. Doug (Rad. Maint.)
 Riesenbeck, Don (Armanent)
 Taylor, Thomas (Geminder N)

719TH SQUADRON:

Ackerly, Thomas (Crew P)
 Block, Jack (Lofquist NG)
 Borciko, Ben (Ackerly B)
 Brau, Clarence (Apgar B)
 Fuller, Paul (Lofquist N)
 Hutchinson, Ray (Ackerly N)
 Jahier, Louis (Ackerly NG)
 Jensen, Phil (Mealey/O'Malley CP)
 Koons, Robert (Debnam N)
 Marico, William (Sullwold R/O)
 Robison, Harold (Sullwold N)
 Sidic, Don (Mahoney G)
 Steers, Edward (Sullwold BG)
 Sullwold, Myron (Crew P)
 Viola, Leonard (Witt F/E)

449th Bomb Group: SQUADRON GROUND and SUPPORT SECTIONS . . . PHOTOS!!!

Those already published photos, by 449th History Book and pages . . .

	716	717	718	719	GP	UNK
Flight Surgeons					X	
717th Maintenance		X				
719th Communications				X		
449th Photog Section					X	
449th Hqs Ops Section					X	
717th Aircraft Ground Crews.....		X				
a Sqdn Ordnance Crew						X
718th Sqd Staff			X			
449th Alamogordo Cadre	X	X	X	X	X	
449th Gp Hqs NCO's					X	
719th Instrument Section				X		
348th Svc Sqdn photos						
716th Orderly Rm. Staff	X					
Group Intel. & Sqdn Staffs.....					X	
717th Engineering		X				
717th Sqdn Staff (July '45)		X				
718th Engineering			X			
717th Medical Section.....		X				
718th Sqdn Staff.....			X			
717th Ground Crews (Bruning)		X				
718th Armament.....			X			
719th Ordnance				X		
Received & Printed	2	7	5	4	6	1

Additional Photos are needed, per missing areas not shown above . . . annotate your photos and send to the Association Historian or Association Secretary.



449th ASSOCIATION DECEASED MEMBERS

We include these names with those previous names—since the origin of the Association in 1983.

Boyer, Jack	716th R/O Elliott crew	31 July '90
Chonka, John P.	717th F/E Fowler crew	3 May '90
Christensen, Allen	348th Svc Sq	Jun '90
Connery, James J.	717th Nav Ramsey crew	19 Feb '90
Crockett, David	718th Sheet Metal	16th Apr '90
Davidson, Curtis W.	718th WG Miller crew	Feb '90
Fulmer, Wm. E.	717th B. Jerry Scroggs crew	'88
Harrison, Robert E.	716th, TG on Nelson crew	27 Oct '89
Harthold, Ancel O.	716th Bomb on Rye crew	21 May '90
Helldorfer, John	716th, F/E on Ode crew	May '90
Kallewaard, Peter C.	718th, NG on Peter crew	Feb '89
King, Varia B.	716th, F/E on Webb crew	21 May '89
Levenson, Robert L.	716th Nav on Drinan crew	31 May '90
MacQueen, Donald W.	718th Ordnance	25 Apr '90
Martin, Joseph W.	718th, Bomb on Grimmer crew	19 Oct '90
Meyer, Ernst L.	Gp Hqs Photog.	18 Oct '89
Ode, Joseph D.	716th, crew pilot	Apr '90
Popken, Charles F.	716th Nav on Oien crew	10 Feb '90
Shiple, William J.	717th, CP on J. Miller crew	28 May '90
Wood, Nelson, S.	719th Crew Pilot	21 May '90
Wright, E. L. Jack	719th, BG on Hall crew	14 Jan '90



PRINTED ITEMS TO BE CORRECTED

Two aircraft stories and data items have been cleared up after receiving confirmed reports from members flying on those specific aircraft. Each story had been compiled from all of the information at hand when the history books went to print.

Factual data has been presented to "correct/update" the true story about (1) "QUEEN OF HEARTS," by those members of Haywood's crew flying the mission—it crash landed on Corsica, and (2) "STAR DUST". . . additional data confirming initial stories have disclosed that "STAR DUST" was not an original ship with the 449th, but of another bomb group that trained stateside at the same time, the 450th, and was actually picked up at Manduria by two pilots of the 716th/718th. Hamilton's crew was transferred into the 718th with "Spider" Webb taking over the crew, in early

February '44 . . . and yes, this is the ship that lasted out the War, only to be salvaged August 6, 1945.

Additional named ships have been identified as "lasting out the War" from recent information.

This list is ready to be printed after a few more pieces of information come in. Both of these corrected stories are being readied for printing in the next publication.

Several uncovered stories are also in hand . . . and some personal items about Dr. Leslie Caplan, 719th Flight Surgeon and his heroic service as a POW to the men of the imprisoned AAF.

COLLINGS B-24 "ALL-AMERICAN" . . .

Attempts to schedule the B-24J to be present in Houston are being made . . . data not available at this time.

The 449th BGA Newsletter

Compiled, written by
R. F. Downey, Secy.
4859 Stanhope Drive
St. Louis, MO 63128
(314) 892-4597

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contributions. Checks should be made out to: 449th Bomb Group Assoc. and mailed to the above address.

We are Federal IRS Tax Exempt, Internal Revenue Code 501 (c) (19), #43-1297064.

NOTE: Change of Address for Assn.Treas.; change to: James B. Miller, 125 Forest Lake Dr., Simpsonville, SC 29681, (803) 297-5208.

THIS REUNION "HIGHLIGHTS"

TOURS TO: Houston ASTRODOME, NASA SPACE CENTER, WW1-WW2 TEXAS BATTLESHIP, SAN JACINTO MONUMENT/MUSEUM, the 6-story tall I-MAX THEATRE showing . . . and much more . . . and the 3rd 449th GOLF TOURNEY, this one for 18 holes!! Read all about them!

ANSWERS TO PHONE CALL QUESTIONS

Yes, we will have 449th CAPS for sale at the Reunion . . . yes, we do have a few 449th PATCHES left, first come, first sold . . . similarly to a few Bumper Stickers . . . and yes, we will have a surprise "give-away" item per member attendee (with his registration packet).

REMEMBER . . .

Western wear for the Thursday night "RANCH NIGHT" . . . for the ladies and the men (no guns, pick your own outfits; and, at least, wear a Western-type shirt . . . read the program for that night).

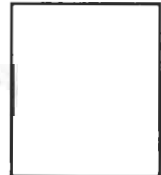
717TH SINGERS:

As led by John Lynn (Wykel co-pilot) . . . all 449th men wanting to sing with the "singing Horsemen" join in . . . the "singers" will have a few numbers for Thursday night, Friday Memorial Service and for Friday night too . . . a few "sing-along" numbers are planned for Thursday night . . . y'all come!!!!

449th Bomb Group "Flying Horsemen" Reunion

Richard F. Downey, Secretary
4859 Stanhope Drive
St. Louis, MO 63128-2848

April 9-13, 1991
Houston, Texas



WINTER '90-'91
NEWSLETTER

FIRST CLASS

(Send me address changes!)