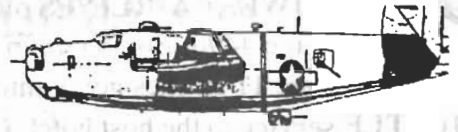


"Late Pass!"



THE CALL SIGN FOR GROTTAGLIE TOWER

449th "FLYING HORSEMEN"

JANUARY 2003 ISSUE

449TH BOMB GROUP ASSN.

13TH REUNION



13TH REUNION ALBUQUERQUE, NM APRIL 25 THRU 28, 2003

HOST HOTEL - SHERATON UPTOWN

2600 Louisiana NE, 87110
1-800-252-7772, (505) 881-0000,
Fax (505) 881-6933
www.sheratonuptown.com

**MAKE YOUR RESERVATIONS ASAP.
HOTEL ROOM PER ABOVE, YOU CONTACT!
FOR 449TH ADVANCE REGISTRATION, MAIL IN.
(FORM ENCLOSED)**



WHO WILL NEVER FORGET "U.S. 66"? ...

From Chicago to Los Angeles it carried 2 lane traffic thru St. Louis, Oklahoma City, Amarillo, Tucumcari, Albuquerque, on to Gallup, Flagstaff, Blythe, San Bernardino and into Los Angeles!

"Old 66" came into Albuquerque on East Central Ave. right thru the center of town. The City has grown but began by spreading eastward along Center Ave. and across the Rio Grande River. The Air Base of Kirtland Field drew many servicemen for training in WW2 and into the Atomic Age. The US 66 hwy. signs are all gone, finding one is a treasure.



THE ZIA SUN SYMBOL

New Mexico's insignia is this Zia Sun Symbol originating in ancient times. It's design reflects the tribe philosophy teaching the basic harmony of things in the universe. To the Zia Indian, four is the sacred number; four seasons, four parts to a day (sunrise, noon, evening and night), life's four divisions (childhood, youth manhood & old age) ... all bound together in the circle of the earth, without beginning and without end. Plus, man has four obligations: to develop a strong body, a clear mind, a pure spirit and a devotion to the welfare of his people.

DIRECTIONS IN DRIVING TO HOTEL:

I-25 going North or South; turn East on I-40, go to Louisiana St. Exit Ramp; Hotel is on Louisiana at I-40.

I-25 & I-40 cross each other in Albuquerque. On I-40 from West or East; look for the Louisiana St. Exit Ramp. The Hotel is right at I-40 and Louisiana St., in the NE part of the City.



SOUTHWEST AIRLINES offers a 10% discount for our reunion. Use CODE D0102 and mention it is for the 449th Bomb Group Reunion.

There are 11 airlines going into Albuquerque International Sunport Airport. We have contracted for **SHUTTLE service** to the host hotel, **COUPONS** have been provided for this transportation and included in this **LATE PASS** issue. The round trip is \$20.00 each. **OUR HOST HOTEL** is the **SHERATON UPTOWN**, one of the **newest** in town. Our room price is \$65 for a single King size bed or two Queen size beds. Each room provides a mini-refrigerator, a coffee maker, a hair blow dryer, an iron and ironing board plus Hi-speed Internet access. (the transportation coupons for the Shuttle is also for AMTRAK.)

Our **449th** Reunion tables is the place for your Reunion tickets and registration; each individual member to register, with the same registration fee for Member and Spouse! Your pre-advance registrations will meet you at these tables with your requested tickets. Arrivals without advance registration will be handled also, but with added times.

The schedule starts **FRIDAY 25TH** with our **GOLF TOURNEY**, meeting at 0830 at the Hotel. Women are also invited to participate! The cost includes golf carts. The course is the University of New Mexico Championship course, rated as one of the top 25 courses in the U.S. Also on the **25th** is our traditional "**GET ACQUAINTED PARTY**", where details and questions may be covered, the cost is \$15.00 each, cash bar and "finger food". The time is **7:00 p.m.** (NOTE: our room rates are the same 3 days prior and 3 days after, the 22nd thru the 1st of May).

THE "GATHERING OF NATIONS INDIAN POW WOW" times begin 10:00 a.m. on **Friday the 25th and Saturday the 26th**. Many Tribal Councils attend and have competitions in Indian dancing, singing, various performances of at least 3,000 performers with drums, Head-dresses, full regalia of Indian attire ... an annual event that brings them from all points of the globe. They will elect a "**Miss Indian World**."

SATURDAY 26TH: Ride on the longest Mountain Tramway in the U.S. Sandia Peak round trip from the hotel, \$15.00 each. Leave the Hotel at 10, 11, 12 or 1 p.m. The actual tram ride is not too long but exciting. From a peak view the scenes are great! **SATURDAY 26TH EVENING:** this is the time and date

of our **SQUADRON DINNERS**, each separately for renewal friendships, for new friendships, etc. Cost is \$23.00 each. Cash bar at 6 p.m., dinners at 7 p.m. ... at the Hotel.

SUNDAY 27TH: we have the morning free ... but at 1 p.m. we begin our bus ride (58 miles) to Santa Fe for the **SCENIC R.R. TRAIN RIDE**, cost is \$33 which includes the bus round trip! Returning between 4-5 hrs. (maximum number of riders is 120)

MONDAY 28TH: Our **MEMORIAL BREAKFAST** and program begins at 0830, at the hotel and in the same room, after a 15 minute adjustment, we will have our **BUSINESS MEETING**, for office elections and several topics of discussion. The meeting usually ends between 1100 and 1130 a.m. The breakfast is a buffet, cost is \$15 each. Our **REUNION BANQUET** is at 6 p.m.; cash bar, and 7 p.m. dining. Coats and ties for the men, dresses for the ladies. (NOTE: our dinners are all non-smoking). Our banquet program will end with our guest speaker, Maj/Gen Leroy Barnidge, Jr. USAF., Pentagon USAF Director of Legislative Liaison and former Asst. to AF Chief of Staff, with 31 years of service.

At intervals in the reunion we will have the "**449th Men's Chorus**" provide with patriotic sing-along music, etc. led by our song leader, Maestro John Lynn! We do ask our men to help fill the spaces on the chorus left by attrition (dueto age and health situations).

.....
• **WARNING:** ABQ elev. 5,000'.
• Heart patients be aware.
• Sandia Tramway top is at 10,000'.
• ABQ Mexican food is great, but
• very hot, ask waitress "how hot is
• it"?
•
•

MISCELLANEOUS BITS OF INFORMATION

IMPORTANT AND BRIEF WORD FROM 449TH ASSN. PRESIDENT:

Greetings and Best Wishes to all for a healthy and generous 2003!!!

Do read this LATE PASS Newsletter carefully for all the planned events and details MAKE YOUR HOTEL RESERVATION ASAP. Note that SOUTH WEST AIRLINES provides a 10% Discount when you mention the 449th and the user CODE D0102. Check over the enclosed 449th Registration Form, keeping the carbon copy and mailing the original to the Treasurer, listed on the form.

We trust you will not have a hard time in your air and ground travel and can find the host hotel easily.

The Cabinet has worked hard to present the details and join you in seeing many of the 449ers again!

Jim Miller

We lose one of our Reunion workers and dependable attendees. **Frank A. Prior** succumbed to illness October 11th, 2002. His presence was noted and welcome by his exuberance in taking candid photography at all our reunions. He spread his attention to all squadrons, although mentally favoring his own crew and 717th Squadron in his pictures. Many of his pictures adorn our reunion albums, he donated all of his photography film and developed pictures to the Secretary, the President and requesting friends. Despite his limited leg movements in the past two reunions he managed to keep up with everyone else ... something that non-aching members had a hard time doing! We'll miss his happy countenance and his ever present picture taking. His wife, Eunice, maintains her membership in our Honor Squadron.

Many of our members have not known **Col. George H. Blase**. He became Group Ops. Officer after Bill Tope and was promoted to relieve Gen. Rush as 47th Bomb Wing Commander. This occurred near the end of the War as seen in our History Book 1-2 page 193. He was awarded the Silver Star and DFC among other ribbons. A native of St. Louis he attended Missouri University, Columbia, MO earning athletic letters in football and baseball. He was elected President of the "M" Club and served many Community Organizations. He passed away November 28, 2002.

One of the Hollywood USO touring group passed away recently, 30 December '02. **Mary Brian**, toured with Jack Haley and visited the 449th by listening in on several combat crew debriefings. She had starred in more than 70 films, going back to the silent screen days ... her approximate age during their 449th tour was 37 (looking like 27) and died at 96 years of age. She played opposite Gary Cooper in "The Virginian". In the 1930's she had been engaged to Cary Grant and Dick Powell. A photo of her tour with Jack Haley and others is on page 113, Book 4, 449th newest History Book!

The Book, "**Brother Men Who Fly**", by **Ben Yedlin**, former ball gunner on Rogers 719th Crew is now available. It sells for \$19.95 soft cover, and \$29.95 hard cover. The book contains 297 written information pages plus 40 pages of photos. Send money order or check to: Liberator Productions, 1000 Herrontown Rd., Princeton, NJ 08540-7799. Yedlin is donating 20% of the sales price to the 449th BG Assn. It's taken him several years of research and hired a professional writer to assist him in it's completion. Yedlin's phone number is 1-800-218-1065.

Harvey Gann, former flight engineer on Ben Kendall crew downed 30 Jan. 44 & taken German POW tells his story "**Escape I Must**" (and he did, more than once), he makes the story come alive. It sells for \$27.50 S&H inclusive. Write for it: H.E. Gann, 18202 Travis Dr., Lago Vista, TX 78645. Gann retired from Lawman in 1983 as a Major in the Austin, TX Police Dept. He plans to bring some copies of the ABQ reunion.

717th SQ. LEAD LAWRENCE CREW. Combat between late Feb. 44 and Nov. 44. Photo taken at Grottaglie with SQ. C.O. Capt. Hal Loughran, far left in the kneeling row. Crew Pilot says their hardest mission ws to Brasov, Romania, flying lead in the Groups High Box. This put them into the clouds as the Group formation began to spread. His 3 ship box was met by two other planes and we went over the target and began to receive several ME 109 attacks ... it was our 13th mission! Our gunners were firing from all positions and we began to receive damage. Engine #3 was useless, #4 propellor was uncontrollable ... we had many flak holes in our right wing, the Co-pilot helped hold full left rudder to keep the ship from rolling to the right ... the right aileron was jammed in the full upright position. We managed to make it home constantly fighting the ships attitude. We had a 2 ft. diameter hole in the right wing which added to the drag. With a camera man aboard we learned that we had hit the target. Our follow-on targets included Vienna, Budapest, Ploesti, So. France, Hungary amongst the 50 mission credits received.

In the middle of May the Sq. flt. surgeon grounded me and put me in the hospital for strep throat and fever. During this time the majority of my crew were downed on 29 May 44 flying with Henggeler in Suzan Jane, over Weiner-Neustadt, Austria. Two were KIA; ball gunner Wood and left waist gunner Pagliaro. Four of my men were taken German POW's: Howell lost half a leg, Carroll was wounded, Demarion and Loftin POW's. Those completing our 50 missions: Beischer, later receiving the Silver Star, our Nav. Moran and myself. Later, in the fall, I became Sq. Ops. O. returning home after Nov. 11, 44. Capt. Lawrence made the air force his career retiring as a Colonel. He says he is proud of his post-war assignments; one as vice Commander of the 19th Air Force but enjoying his Commanding the 464th Tactical Wing. of four squadrons of C-130 aircraft at Pope AFB, No. Car. His WW2 bombardier just passed away Aug. 12, 2001. John S. Wood is buried in the Natl. U.S. Cemetery, Ardennes, Italy, grave nr. C-3-46. Joseph F. Pagliaro was returned to private cemetery in the U.S. Carroll, Howell, Lawrence, Loftin, and Mrs. Loughran are todays 449th Assn. members.

LAWRENCE CREW: Standing L to R; Howell, Norman (TG), Wood, John (BG), Beischer, Merlyn (B), Moran, Andrew (N), Jos. Demarion (NG), KNEELING; Hal Loughran (Sq C.O.), Carroll, Philip (RW), Loftin, Grover (TT), Pagliaro, Jos. (LW). At lower center, Lawrence, Norm (P). Now Col. AF Ret.



OTHER ATTRACTIONS AVAILABLE DURING REUNION 13!!!!

BALLOON RIDES: The "Sweet Escape" Balloon ride Co. will have an agent at the 449th tables to take your reservation ride. All rides are in the morning only. Cost is \$59.00 per person. The company will pick you up at the hotel, round trip, and provide a continental breakfast and the customary Champagne upon landing. Rides for THURS, FRI & SAT.

The ATOMIC MUSEUM, ph 841-5955. Exhibits & viewing, 9-5 p.m. The Museum of History & Science, Lodestar Planetarium. 9-5, ph 841-5955. Historic OLD TOWN, many shops, dining, etc, ph 842-8102.

CASINO'S: Sandia I-25 & Tramway, dining & buffet. 526-9366. (each Casino provides round trip trans.). Dancing Eagle Casino, exit 108 on I-40. ph 552-1111. Cities of Gold 455-0515 at that hotel. Casino Hollywood, at San Felipe, NM I-25 exit 252. (505) 867-6700.



THOSE WHO HAVE GONE ON SINCE OUR OCTOBER '02 ISSUE

Bender, George E.	718	Crew Pilot	9/27/02
Blase, George H.	GP HQ.	Ops O. & 47th Wing C.O.	11/28/02
Bubenko, James P.	719	NG, Olson crew	11/2/02
Deringer, George A.	717	G, Geminder orig. crew	8/02
Dickson, Vernon R.	719	N, Stephens orig. crew	9/19/02
Friedberg, William M.	716	N, Bryan crew	5/20/00
Goldbeck, Emil (Mal)	716	N, Parkins crew	in '02
Johannsen, Glen F.	717	N, Bontley orig. crew	3/30/02
Johnson, Earnest J.	716	B, Knapps orig. crew	10/6/02
Kruckmeyer, Frederick (Jack)	719	CP, Geisel orig. crew	11/01
Lynch, Charles R. (Bob)	719	CP, McCormick orig. crew	10/17/02
Mann, Bertram	719/717	N, Mahoney crew	in '02
Mitchell, William J.	716	FE, Kinerd orig. crew	10/14/02
Muller, Robert E.	718	Crew Chief, orig. cadre	9/12/02
Nelson, Harold S.	717/716	Chief Guny. Instr.	9/4/97
Prior, Frank A.	717	WG, Morrill crew	10/11/02
Rinna, Herman	717	BG, spare w/full tour	9/12/02
Wallace, Mrs. Ellen	Hon. Sq.	Wife of Williard, 718th B	7/15/02
Willoughby, Mrs. Mildred	Hon. Sq.	Wife of Goerge, 716th Supply	in '02

NEW NAMES ADDED TO ROSTER BETWEEN 9/01/02 & 1/31/03

Anderson, Ronald R., 3345 Holt Circle, Pensacola Fla.

Hon. Sq. for father Ralph, WG 719th. Crew Pilot (info. needed)

Bosworth, Richard A. & Carolyn, 1004 Mark Circle, Scroggins, TX 75480.

717th, Crew Pilot, July 44 to Apr. 45, Sq. Ops O. under McArthur, 50 missions.

Bubenko, Mrs. Margaret, 2038 Centennial Dr., Wicdber, PA 15963-9007.

Hon. Sq. wife of James, NG, 719th, Olson crew.

Bynum, Walt, 4945 Adenmoor Ave., Lakewood, Ca. 90713-1801.

Hon. Sq.: was in the 1627th Ordinance Maint. Co. assigned to the 449th Group at Grottaglie, 44-45.

Green, Wallace & Thelma, 1490 Star Way, Reno, NV 89511.

717th, R/O on Ivers crew, 2/44 to 7/44, 50 missions.

Haas, Clyde, 9465 Arlington Blvd., #304, Fairfax, VA 22031.

Hon. Sq. nephew of Maurice Matott, Gun. on Geisel orig cadre crew, 719th.

Harton, Mrs. Nancy Jane, 10 Wolfe Glen Way, Kentfield, CA 94904.

Hon. Sq. wife of Charles, Crew Pilot, 719th.

Humes, Walter J, 3515 N.E. 141 Ave., Vancouver, WA 98682.

719/716, Repl. G. on McGrath crew and spare G on Rngels crew, from 450th BG, Heath crew, 50 missions.

Johnson, Mrs. Vicki, P.O. Box 103, Omak, WA 98841.

Hon. Sq. wife of Earnest, 716, B, on Knapp crew.

Keisling, Dellford, 198 Spruce Ct., Annville, PA 17003.

719, TG, (other info. "to come")

Mattot, Russ, 5955 E. Dell Lane, Inverness, FL 39552.

Hon. Sq. son ov Maurice, G on Geisel orig. cadre crew, 719th.

Robinson, Ralph E., 24 Cannon Dr., Nashua, NH 03062-2000.

Hon. Sq. for his Uncle Dan Mahoney, R/OP on Pickard crew.

Wall, Mrs. Barbara, 14135 Indian Wells, Houston, TX 77069.

Hon. Sq. wife of Ed, TG on Boyle crew, 718.

Wallace, Barbara, 4109 Jefferson Ave., Midland, MI 48640-3527.

Hon. Sq. daughter of Willard Wallace, B on Harris crew, 718th.

Ward, James A. & Veda, 4622 Young, Pasadena, TX 77504.

719, Ord. orderly rm. tech. under McNulty, orig. cadre.



AMBITION, GUTS, VERSUS TALENT?

Many stories of WW2 training and combat are told at every Bomb Group Reunion! But here is one that was told by Jack Steele at the Washington, D.C. Reunion in September 2001.

Jack was the squadron commander of the 716th Bomb Squadron and related a story, a true story, that we had never heard before! Called to the microphone to say a few words, he replied that he would like to tell the tale about one of his men. So this is his tale.

His senior sergeant of the squadron motor pool came to him and said "I have a man assigned to me as a mechanic and he can't tell one part from another ... would you please reassign him?" The Sgt. remarked that the man had been a cook before joining the military. Jack replied that he would have to change his MOS (specialty code of record) ... so he did that only to find that he had made the 716th Sq. Mess the best tasting and attended sq. mess hall in the Bomb Group ... that even Group Hqs. men would come to the 716th to eat!

After a period of time, the same man came to the 1st Sgt. and to Jack, saying that he wanted to fly as a gunner on combat missions, he had seen other gunners and talked with them and desired to experience the same thrills of combat that they did. Jack then replied, "but we'll have to assign him to the instructors ground school to learn the .50 caliber machine gun, to be able to strip it blind folded and reassemble it again" (for spare gunners were needed). He also knew that it would take some time to be able to pass the instructors testing to become a gunner, for he had the mess hall going well.

Yes siree ... after another period of time he became certified to be a combat gunner. On his first couple of rides, he was so excited about combat that his in-flight gunners found him taking photo's with a small camera while fighters were coming right toward the aircraft. He wasn't scared but the other gunners and flight crew members said that they did not want him flying with them again!!! The ex-gunner was then given the flight assignment to be an aerial photographer, that all he had to do was to photograph the bomb impacts ...and he was given time to learn all about the "K" type vertical camera that would be mounted over the floor in the prepared hole just aft of the waist gunners position.

Yes siree; he passed the ground crew check instruction on the camera and was assigned to be the aerial photographer on the ship "Ghost of the Omar" that Collins crew was flying. On his one previous flight he had boarded the ship and when the crew went to their positions after take-off, this ex-cook, ex-gunner, was seen sitting on the floor by the camera hole with his legs and feet out in the slip stream of the ship!!! He learned from that ... but with Collins flight the crew had to bail out on June 9th, 44, over Yugoslavia. All 11 men made the bail out but 10 were taken POW by the Germans ... yes-siree the only one to evade was the ex-gunner, ex-cook! He had hidden out well, still with his issue .45 pistol. He was in a heavy forested area and came upon a Yugo couple in their hovel. The couple said that they would help him but the man brought a couple of Germans from town ... but he had hidden again and when the Germans left he held his .45 toward the woman of the house and told the man of the house to bring help or he would shoot the woman.

This was done and he ultimately was rescued by the Partisans and returned to the home base! He wanted to be assigned as cook, again ... but the U.S. policy was that evading men from enemy held territory would be sent home to prevent recapture for information. Thus he was sent home to be a cook once more. For a man to have such courage and so little other talents was a surprise, but his dedication and self preservation gives him credit to be called a combat airman survivor! He had gone from 250 lbs. down to 165 on return. His name was John R. Szablinski, as listed with Collins crew in BK #3, page 301 and 359. He has been reported as deceased, date unknown.

717TH SQ. JOHN L. (RED) CARTER CREW

Photo taken during training at Muroc AAF, California, March 44.



The crew photo surfaced after the October '02 LATE PASS article, p.6. Ill fate hampered the crewmen during their combat of early May 44 into late August 44. Standing, L to R: Wm. Schramm (B), Thomas Conboy (CP), Robert Mucha (N), John Carter (P). Low row: Wm. Correll (BG), Don Dietz (TG), Lloyd McNeil (Top T), Clyde Ringwood (RW), Jim Wayert (LW). Not in photo, M. Prince (NG). The Crew Pilot and Co-Pilot were both killed on May 1st, 44 in "Lil Jo Toddy #2 on test flight. (per October '02 article). All others completed full tours. Wayert, McNeil and Mucha are today members of our Assn.

A PLEA TO SUPPORT AUTHORITY, IN PRAYER: Chaplain Jim Shanahan.

Our World condition borders on conflict as our nation continues its tremendous responsibility dealing with unrest.

We can be grateful for our leadership that seeks to follow God's leadership in handling these responsibilities.

There are two scriptures that come to mind dealing with our own country to the World situation.

The first is from I Timothy 2: 1-5 (new test.) exhorting supplications, prayers, and giving of thanks to all men that we may lead a quiet and peaceful life.

The second is from the Old Testament, II Chronicles 7:14, a scripture used much during our Presidential Breakfasts; it begins. "If my people ... will seek my face and turn from their wicked ways ... (etc.) ... then will I forgive their sin and heal their land."

WE'VE BEEN GIVEN A CHALLENGE: Report of Chaplain Harry Snyder.

To actualize the blessings of peace to all the families of the earth, the Lord gave this challenge ... (every Jew, every Muslim, every Christian); "Keep the way of the Lord by doing righteousness and doing justice." Genesis 12: 1-4 and Genesis 18: 16-19.

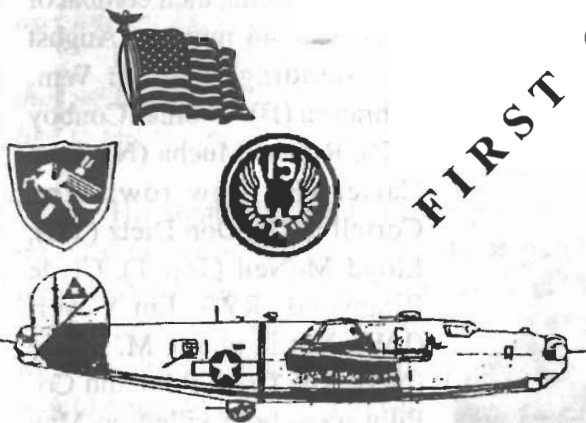
When we give love, do kindness, respect others in respecting the things of Earth, do dialogue with others and issue no demands, we do righteousness. And when we rectify injustice and relieve oppression, we do justice. Thus, the blessed become blessings to others.

Then everyone will know Peace and not war.

449th Bomb Group Assoc.
 R.F. Downey, Secy/Editor
 4859 Stanhope Drive
 St. Louis, MO 63128-2848
 (314) 892-4597



FIRST CLASS



SHEPHERD, BILL
 2805 Woodmere
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JANUARY '03 NEWSLETTER

449th Bomb Group Assn.
716th-717th-718th-719th Bomb Squadrons

32405+4325 10



THE 449th BGA NEWSLETTER
 Late Pass *Compiled and written by*

R.F. Downey, Secy./Editor
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 St. Louis, MO 63128
 (314) 892-4597

Send your items for newsletters, photos and info. to Secy.; call him regarding your items.



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Mail all checks to 449th B.G.A. Assoc. Treas., Floyd Trogdon, 1596 Pioneer Dr., Melbourne, FL 32940.

449TH BOMB GROUP ITEMS NOW AVAILABLE, W/RECENT PURCHASES OF REQUEST!!

NEW CAPS (w/Gp emblem)	Cost \$15.00 ea.
BUMPER STICKETS	Cost \$2.00 ea.
716th SQ. SHOULDER PATCH	Cost \$2.50 ea.
717th SQ. SHOULDER PATCH	Cost \$2.50 ea.
718th SQ. SHOULDER PATCH	Cost \$2.50 ea.
719th SQ. SHOULDER PATCH	Cost \$2.50 ea.
BOMB GROUP PATCH	Cost \$3.00 ea.
LICENSE TAGS	Cost \$2.00 ea.
716th SQ. CLUTCH PINS	Cost \$2.50 ea.
717th SQ. CLUTCH PINS	Cost \$2.50 ea.
718th SQ. CLUTCH PINS	Cost \$2.50 ea.
719th SQ. CLUTCH PINS	Cost \$2.50 ea.
449th BOMB. GP. CLUTCH PINS	Cost \$2.50 ea.

(First Come, First Sold)
 Blue Windbreakers ... small size only, cost ... \$15.00 ea.
 White Windbreakers ... med size only, cost ... \$15.00 ea.
 (Note: Each Windbreaker has a small Group Patch).
 We sold all XL and L sizes.

THE NEW ITEMS ARE: the caps, the Sq. shoulder patches and clutch pins, the Bumper Stickers. All per your requests.

NOTE: THESE ARE THE LAST ITEMS WE WILL PRUCHASE, GET THEM WHILE THEY LAST ... EITHER AT THE REUNION OR BY MAIL REQUEST TO THE 449TH ASSN. TREAS., ADDRESS ABOVE.