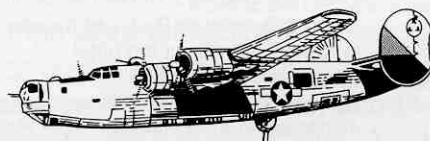


"Late Pass!"



THE CALL SIGN FOR GROTTAGLIE TOWER --



449th "FLYING HORSEMEN"

DECEMBER 2004 ISSUE

449TH BOMB GROUP ASSN.

14th & 15th REUNION NEWS

CHATTANOOGA REUNION

OUR 14th

OCTOBER 10-14, 2004

What can we say about it?

Well planned? Great location? Wonderful food? Interesting tours? Excellent, like all the others? Enjoyable camaraderie? Couldn't be improved upon?

All of the above, and more!!! It was another repeat performance by the guys and gals who worked so hard to make the Reunion something we all want to do again, and again, and again!!! It was just another helluva great vacation, together, with the guys we all fought WWII with, and their loved ones. There were 135 449th military veterans and 'Honorary Sqdn.' Members present, accompanied by 125 other family members and friends.

The 14th Reunion was held at a renowned upscale Chattanooga TN hotel named "**The Chattanooga Choo-Choo**", built on a site that included that city's renovated railroad station, originally designed in the 19th Century. As usual, the activities organized for this reunion were varied and well attended...such as a river boat cruise/luncheon, trips to three other outstanding tourist attractions, an opening '**Get Acquainted**' Party, and the traditional Memorial Breakfast, Business Meeting, four Squadron dinners, and A final 449th BGA Banquet. Only the Golfers were disappointed...by a 'rain-out' day. 54 attendees turned out for the 716th Sq. dinner: 52 for the 717th; 77 for the 718th; and 70 for the 719th – making a total of 253. The loss of three beloved 449th veterans...our Founder, **Dick Downey**...our Chaplain, **Jim Shanahan**,

and our stalwart author, **Ben Yedlin** during the few weeks just before the Reunion saddened the occasion. But Dick Downey's widow, **Harriet**, thrilled us all by bravely attending, and taking part in many events!! The renewal of old friendships, the reliving of old memories, the formation of new friendships, and the first time attendance of 18 newly found veterans and their accompanying family members provided precious moments for all of us.

Now, lets look forward to the next one!

ST CHARLES MO REUNION- [Our 15th!!!]

Vice President Lee Kenney has made preliminary plans for the 449th BGA Reunion in this St. Louis suburb, and surrounding area, starting on Sunday, September 25, 2005, and ending on Thursday, September 29. It will be held in the St Charles MO Holiday Inn Select.

The room rate will be \$70.00 per night. Members will make their own reservations, by calling phone number 636-928-1500. The Inn offers those attending, **providing they have made advance reservations, and requested Shuttle Service by phone before arrival, free Shuttle Service** from the St. Louis, MO Airport to the Inn. [See more info in **Late Pass!**'s next issue.]

?? RETURN TO ITALY-MAY 16, 2005 ??

Vice President Lee Kenney also is studying preliminary plans for a 15 day tour of Italy. Lee and Wanda, who are frequent visitors to Italy, will make every effort to make this tour physically feasible for some of our aging members. [Like Me!!]

The tentative Itinerary is:

Day 1- Departure from USA.

Day 2-TARANTO [PUGLIA]

Arrive in Brindisi or Bari, and transfer to our hotel in Taranto. Dinner at the hotel

Day 3-TARANTO & GROTTAGLIE

Full day, visiting the Old Base, meeting with local dignitaries in the Grottaglie Town Hall, visiting Old sections of Grottaglie. Lunch at the Old Base or In a local restaurant. Dinner in our Taranto hotel.

Day 4-TARANTO-SALERNO-SORRENTO

Drive North to Sorrento. Stop in Salerno to view the Bay. Dinner at our hotel.

Day 5-SORRENTO-CAPRI

Full day in Capri, our former rest camp site. Visit the Gardens of Cesare Augusto. Funicular ride back to pier and Sorrento. Dinner at our hotel.

Day 6-SORRENTO-AMALFI COAST

Drive along the most picturesque road in Italy. Stop for a view of Positano, & continue on to Amalfi and Vietri. Dinner in Sorrento Restaurant.

Day 7-SORRENTO-POMPEII-FIUGGI

On our way to Fiuggi, stop at Pompeii for guided tour of the Archaeological Park. Dinner in Fiuggi hotel.

Day 8-FIUGGI-ROME

Full day excursion to Rome, & guided tour of Ancient Rome. Afternoon free in Rome. Return to Fiuggi.

Day 9-FIUGGI-NETTUNO-ANZIO-ROME

Morning excursion to Nettuno and Anzio, visiting the American Cemetery. Lunch at local restaurant. Another free Afternoon in Rome. Return to Fiuggi for dinner in our hotel.

Day 10-FIUGGI-PISA-MONTECATINI

Drive North to Tuscany. See the Leaning Tower, etc., in Pisa. Continue to hotel and dinner in Montecatini.

Day 11-MONTECATINI-FLORENCE

Full day to and in Florence. Guided tour of city, including the Cathedral, Signoria Square, Santa Croce, etc. Free afternoon in Florence. Return to dinner & hotel in Montecatini

Day 12-MONTECATINI CHIANTI WINE REGION

Morning excursion to the heart of Tuscany, the Chianti wine producing area. Visit cellars of a winery, taste the wine, and feast on typical countryside lunch based on specialties of the region. Return to Montecatini hotel for dinner.

Day 13-MONTECATINI-VENICE

Drive North across Apennine mountain chains, cross the fertile River Po Valley, & arrive in Venice, the Queen of the Adriatic.

[THEY PROMISED, NO FLAK, THIS TIME !!]. Free evening in Venice. Dinner at our hotel.

Day 14-VENICE

Morning guided tour, including San Marco Square, the Bridge of Sighs, the Doge Palace, etc. Free Afternoon, and farewell dinner at local restaurant.

Day 15-VENICE-USA

Private transfer to Venice Airport and return flight to USA.

The present unfavorable and erratic exchange rate between dollars and Euros delays these plans, and knowing their price ... [They Will require a group of at least 50 travelers.]

URGENT!!

If you could consider going, please write to Lee at 445 Maple Bluff Circle, Melbourne FL 32940; or call him at Phone No. 321-242-8654.

Fourteenth Reunion 449th Victory Banquet

The Wednesday, October 13 dinner meeting was opened with the Ridgeland High School Air Force Jr. ROTC, from Rossville GA, Lt. Colonel Paul Simpson, Commander, posting our national colors. Our Chaplain, Rev. Harry Snyder, a 717th Sqdn.. pilot, offered an inspiring prayer, followed by dinner, and then by Floyd Trogdon's introduction of the Banquet Speaker.

Col. Roger D. Ingvalson's Patriotic Story

We were honored with the presence, and thrilled by the inspiring life story, of our Group dinner meeting speaker, a Vietnam War hero. He endured 5 years of solitary confinement as a North Vietnamese prisoner of war after his F15 was shot down on May 28, 1968. Three years into this ordeal, his captors told him that his wife had died. Imagine, if you can, how any patriot could survive this and other abuse, day after day, week after week, month after month, and year after year. How many of us could have survived to be as physically fit and mentally sharp and cheerful as he is??? Roger's faith in Jesus Christ, and in our great nation, and a determined program of physical and mental exercise, carried him through that eon of time in the "Hanoi Hilton." He lived in a bamboo cage four feet square and seven feet long, and was systematically starved, beaten, and tortured. Yet, he survived, and at age 46, he regained the 75 pounds he had lost in captivity. Later, he married the widow of his best friend ... another P

51 pilot, who died in Vietnam, and then served out his remaining Air Force career.

[After retiring from the Air Force, Roger is serving as a Prison minister. Of men such as he, Nathaniel Hawthorne's Psalm of Life says, "Lives of Great Men remind us, That our lives, too, can be sublime, And departing, leave behind us, Footprints in the Sands of Time ..."]

THE WILLHOITS SERVE AGAIN

Some part of the success and smooth operation of the 14th Reunion can be attributed to Chattanooga's retired, and still very popular, local Sheriff, Clyde L. Willhoit. Besides attending the Reunion, with his charming wife, this longtime regular member of the 449th BG Assn. assisted with making local arrangements, and was frequently of counsel to the team that planned the Reunion. They also teamed up with John and Jean Aulner for several hours each day, selling 449th BG and Squadron memorabilia. Sales at Chattanooga were so outstanding that some items of inventory were sold out, or down to minimal inventory levels. The Aulners also handle the PX sales by mail all year. We are grateful for the dedicated service of these capable and gracious volunteers.

HOORAY FOR THE SHEPHERD'S !!

Our Association has long and often been well served by 718 Squadron's Charley Shepherd and his family. We all have enjoyed Charley's war stories and writings. His nephew, Bill, maintains the extensive 449th Bomb Group Website at <http://www.norfield-publishing.com/449th/449site.html>. His phone number is [850] 763-0027. If you haven't logged onto this colorful and fascinating source of pictures, art and history of our Association, and our patriotic service, give it a try. It is there because of Bill's patriotism, and his interest in all we did together in WWII. Without Bill's efforts, our History Book No. 4 would not have had its splendid format and timely printing. [Both of these guys enjoyed

being with us again in Chattanooga.] All of us at Chattanooga were thrilled by 717 Squadron's Roy Jones coming from Warner Robbins GA, even though he had to rely on his Son-In-Law, Tommie Mixson, to steer him around. And these guys weren't there just to eat, drink and talk!! They were out on the tours and enjoying Roy's ninth Reunion experience to its fullest. Roy is 82 years young, and as gutsy a guy as you want to meet. We applaud his determination, and hope to enjoy his fellowship at St. Charles MO and beyond.

Wednesday Business Meeting Notes

The members attending the Wednesday, October 13 business meeting reelected the present slate of officers, and commended them for their service. They were:

Jim B. Miller President
Lee Kenney Vice President
Floyd H Trogdon Treasurer
And, as always, Colonel Jack Randolph continues as our honorary President Emeritus.

[Ye Editor's Note: Working with these dedicated and dynamic three guys already has made me admire and appreciate their talents, and their service and leadership even more!! **Three Cheers for them!!** – Al Allen]

The members present also voted to change the reunion cycle from every 18 months to every 12 months, with the next reunion to be in September, 2005.

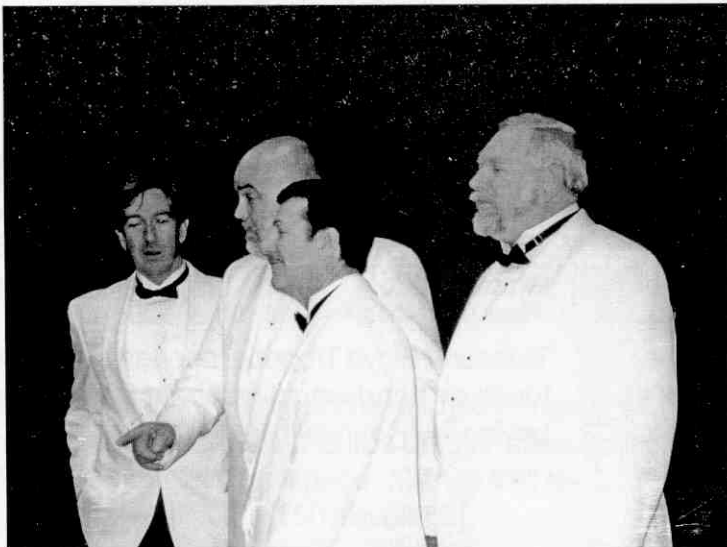
Treasurer Floyd Trogdon reported that the 449th funds on hand would be about \$20,000, after paying the Reunion bills.



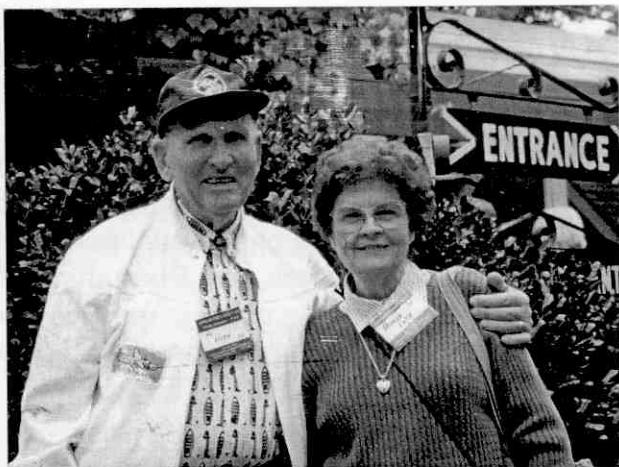
Liz Morton (left) and Aldine Allen (right)



Clyde Willhoit (left) and John Aulner (right)



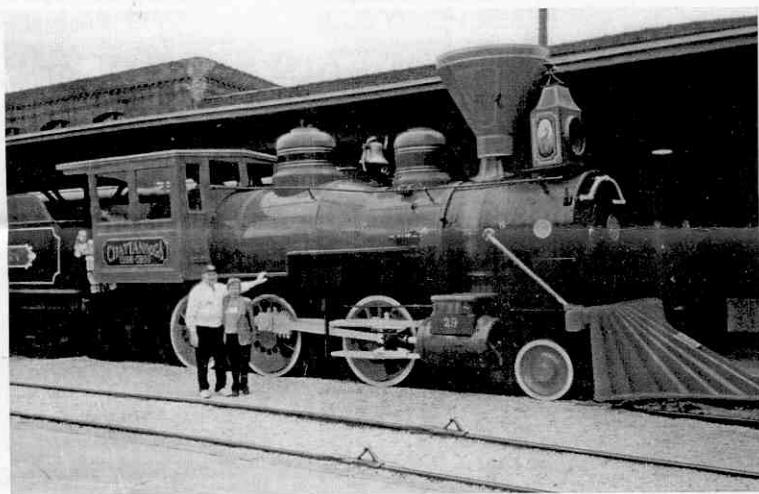
Barber Shop Quartet at the 716th Squadron Dinner



Al Allen and Patricia Latta



(left to right) Jim Miller, Wayne Kennedy and Lee



Chattanooga Choo-Choo



Lunch Cruise aboard the "Southern Belle"

ALLEN's GREETINGS—

From a lazy guy who has enjoyed many 449th BGA reunions, without doing any of the work ... I'll do some of the things that **Dick Downey** did so well, but know that more help will be needed now.. **PLEASE, send** news about yourselves and your whereabouts ... **your** Stories, Photos, Jokes, Letters to the Editor, Cartoons, Poems, ideas & suggestions for '**LATE PASS!**' to my address and phone, FAX, and Internet numbers shown on the return address page for this '**LATE PASS!**'. I even prevailed on my wife, Aldine, to write some distaff side stories. The first one follows:

NOTES FROM ALDINE:

This was my second 449th BGA reunion. The first was in Branson in 2000, shortly after Al and I were married. I only wish I had been fortunate enough to have attended some of the other reunions. It is, indeed, an experience to remember, and you get to meet and enjoy so many likeable people. [I also understand that some of the war stories they tell **actually happened!!**] At Chattanooga, I met, and was photographed [with my hat] and with a delightful lady, Liz Morton,[See Page 5] attending her second reunion. Liz's husband was Alfred Morton, a 717 Sqdn. pilot who was shot down at Ploesti. Alfred passed away in 1963.

I also enjoyed visiting with Patricia Latta, [See photo with Al, on Page 5] who has attended **all fourteen** reunions. Pat also went to Italy with her husband, James "Ed" Latta, & 2 daughters in 1995; and then again, alone, in 2001. Ed was a 718 Sqdn. Flight Engineer, and passed away in 1999. I am looking forward to seeing all who attended in Chattanooga again, and to meeting others who were unable to come in 2004, but will be present in St. Charles.

14th Reunion Memorial Breakfast

Chaplain Harry Snyder offered a solemn, emo-

tion packed opening prayer, followed by John Lynn and the 449th Men's Chorus leading us in that great old hymn, "**Amazing Grace.**"

After breakfast, Snyder offered a short tribute to our recently departed Founding Secretary, **Dick Downey**; and one to our late Chaplain and comrade in Arms, **Jim Shanahan**. Then he asked various members to read the following names of our comrades who had passed on since the May, 2004 '**LATE PASS!**':

They are:

BENNETT, JOHN C.	717 th WG, Samuelson Crew
BUCHSBAUM, JACK	716 th "Dragon Wagon" G/C
CHRANS, DALLAS	719 th TG -Lofquist Cret
DOWNEY, RICHARD	719th Bomb, Ketring Crew
DIBONA, AL	718 th Photographer
EASTERS, ROBERT	719 th Sqd Ops Officer
ELSEA, HENRY O., Jr.	719 th BG, Rude Crew
FALLON, ARTHUR	717 th CoPilot, Marten Crew
FLEAGAL, RUSSELL	716 th Nav, Nicholson Crew
HAMBY, WILLIAM	716 th CP, Bode Crew
HANNAH, WALTER E.	719 th BG, Charnes Crew
HARRIS, WILLIE M.	719 th CP, Morrison Crew
HEIDY, JOHN	718 th CP, Murch Crew
HEMM, CHUCK R.	717 th CP, R. Asbury Crew
HINDS, GEORGE,	719 th Bomb, N. Rogers Crew
HOSTETLER, CHARLES	717 th Gunner, Fees Crew
KRAWIEK, HENRY	718 th Crew Pilot
LACARA, JACK	719 th , Gonnelson Crew
MARTIN, HERBERT D	718 th Asst Ops Officer
MCGRATH, WILLIAM	716 th Crew Pilot
MCKEAGUE, JOHN E.	716 th TG, Browning Crew
MCKINLEY, RAYMOND	716 th Crew Pilot
MONTAGNA, JOSEPH	716 th F/E, Bradley Crew
PALUSKO, FRANK R.	719 th R/O, McKee Crew
PAYSON, JOSEPH C.	718 th CP, Petz Crew
ROGERS, NORMAN	719 th Crew Pilot
SHANAHAN, JIM	717th F/E, Morton Crew
SIMMONS, ROBERT	719 th Nav, Bloomgren Crew
STABB, WARREN J.	718 th Bomb, Lawrence Crew
WAINE, LEONARD	719 th Crew Pilot
WEBSTER, MERLIN	716 th BG, McKinley Crew
WERNER, ROBERT	718 th WG, Isaak Crew
YEDLIN, BENEDICT	719th BG, N Rogers Crew
ZIOMEK, JEROME J.	717 th Bomb, Wilde Crew

[And we all fear there are others, of which we never may be informed, as the "Great Generation" becomes the "Vanishing Generation". For indeed, a recent news story said that three fourths of the 16 million WWII veterans are gone now, and the rate of departure is over a thousand a day.....]

OUR WAR STORIES STILL KEEP COMING BOOZY, the Bombardier, remembers:

"The day when we lost an engine enroute to Moosebierbaum, and dropped out of formation to return alone. After getting down to lower altitude, somewhere in Yugoslavia we located an alternate target ... an airport with two hangars. With no fighters or flack, I put 5 two thousand pounders into the first hangar, and 4 of the other 5 into the second hangar, demolishing them completely!" [His memory is bourbon enhanced. But please send your tall ones for publication – Al].

NEW MEMBERS SINCE MAY '04 2004 :
Baldone, PasqualA, 717th Sqdn.

MARATHON REUNION ATTENDANCE

Eleven of the 449th BGA members listed below have attended all fourteen reunions! * Five more were attending their 13th reunion. **We are proud of their enthusiastic support!!**

719th - Richard V Greko

718th - Howard M. Felman, *Robert E. Hathorn, Charles Gran, *Clyde L Willhoit, Lee F. Kenney, Patricia Latta [Honor Sq]

717th - John E Aulner, Emil K Brenckman, *John H. Lynn, James D. Byram

716th - Paul R. Farrell, *Jim B. Miller, Frank J. Shoaf, Jr., *John A. Steele, Patrick L Wehling
[If we missed anyone, please let us know.]

THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER.....

Well, the Chattanooga Reunion is behind us. From all angles it was **very successful!** The CHATTANOOGA CHOO-CHOO HOLIDAY INN was most accommodating, and filled our needs well. It is in a very nice city, and even provided a FREE round trip trolley from the hotel to the Tennessee Aquarium and I-MAX theater, and around the down town area. My personal thanks are extended to all the Good Helpers that performed so many necessary chores, like local members Clyde and Mary Ruth Willhoit. They

were our 'Right Hands' at almost every turn. . Now for the future .. I'm hoping we can have an even greater Reunion crowd in 2005!! Make your plans to travel to St. Charles, MO, for the **15th 449th BGA Reunion!!**

See ya' there!!

Jim Miller

THE SKY PILOT SAID IT..... by Harry Snyder

First, let us pause for a moment, to remember the service of 449th BGA Chaplain **Jim Shanahan**, and of his wife, Jean. Jim served his Country in the 449th BG, and later, answered the call to serve his Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Jim was dedicated and faithful to both.

Next, during the Holiday Season before us, **let us think carefully of Broken Relationships that need to be restored, while we still are here to do so!!** Can this be done? Yes, if two or more persons persist in dialogue based on reason, mutual respect, and love! Such dialogue occurs when persons with broken relationships meet to address common concerns, with honest feelings and thoughts. They must dare to experience viewpoints from the other side with courage and openness. The rewards can be great when the voices from both sides are heard with love and respect.

And you know what? The presence and power of the Spirit of God also will there! Then, broken relationships can be restored, and stronger new relationships can be forged!

In this Holy Season, we will be blessed if we join to celebrate God's love in Person – and to reconcile each one of us to Him; and to one another, and to create a harmonious community for his Global Family.

So go forth in this Season to mend strained relationships, and restore broken relationships, before it is too late to do so.

And may God's Blessings be on you...

Chaplain Harry Snyder

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DECEMBER '04 NEWSLETTER
449th Bomb Group Association
716-717-718-719 Bomb Squadrons

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Please send your stories, photos, Letters to the Editor,
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ITEMS FOR SALE:

Mail all contributions, orders and checks to 449th
 BGA Treasurer Floyd Trogdon, 1596 Pioneer Dr
 Melbourne FL 32940

ITEMS FOR SALE:

449 BG HISTORY BOOK 1 & 2,
 combined in One hardback volume \$35.00
 449 BG HISTORY BOOK 4."Maximum
 Effort" in One hardback volume \$35.00
 Planes of the 449th [with Nose Art]
 in One Paperback volume \$9.00
 Brother Men Who Fly
 in One Paperback volume \$10.00
 12 oz. plastic glasses, decorated with:
 449 BG [Pegasus} insignia \$5.00
 716th Squadron [Skull, etc.] insignia. \$5.00

717th Squadron [Elephant] insignia..... \$5.00
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