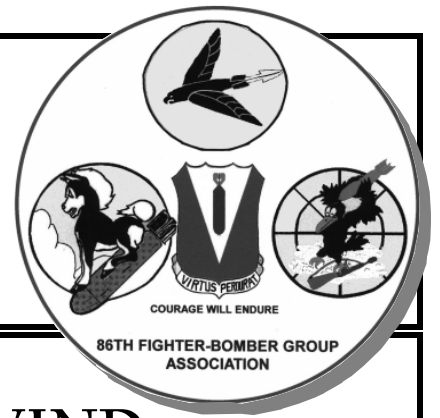


86TH FIGHTER-BOMBER GROUP ASSOCIATION

OCTOBER 2008 NEWSLETTER



CHANGES ARE IN THE WIND

SAN ANTONIO TREATED US WELL FOR OUR 29th REUNION **September 4 to 7, 2008**

Had he lived to see it, Al BURGOON would have been proud to witness the fruition of all the time and effort he expended on planning the reunion he was so looking forward to hosting. San Antonio II certainly takes its place among our more successful and enjoyable reunions. The number attending did not compare with those at earlier reunions, but remember John HARSH'S statement that "We (of the 526th) stress quality rather than quantity!"



Location: Indianapolis Reunion in 2007

Another great reunion is over and locked in a special place in our memories. Kudos to those who picked up the ball and carried through on Al's plans. Most of the "diehards", as usual, were milling about in the hotel lobby by Wednesday afternoon, though the reunion did not officially start until Thursday.

86th FIGHTER-BOMBER GROUP ASSOCIATION

Vol. XXIX, No. 3

NEWSLETTER

October 2008

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Publisher – Martha M. Plowden

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We as veterans of WWII are organized to perpetuate the history of our fight to retain our American freedoms, to meet once a year for a reunion to maintain close ties with the Association and our comrades, and to encourage the heirs of our veterans to join with us in a united effort to hold on to our legacy.

THE TOURS

Registration went on throughout Thursday, with the Hospitality Room open for visitation, imbibing lemonade, and tall-story competition.

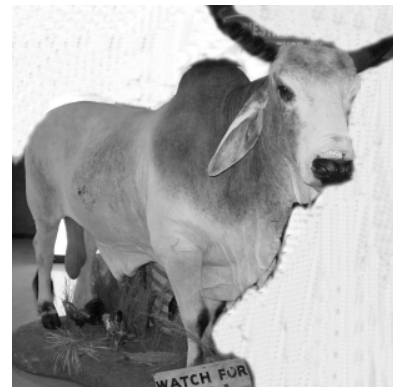
In the late afternoon, a bus took 44 of us to the famous Riverwalk, a popular entertainment destination in Texas. There we boarded a motor boat, but takeoff was delayed because the boat settled into mud and silt on the bottom of the canal. Once we were freed from the impediment, we spent about an hour passing by all of the hotels, restaurants, bars, and eye-catching plantings on both sides of the canal. The narrator kept us well-informed on what we were seeing.



The tour was followed by dinner at a leading Mexican restaurant (Casa Rio) on the Riverwalk.

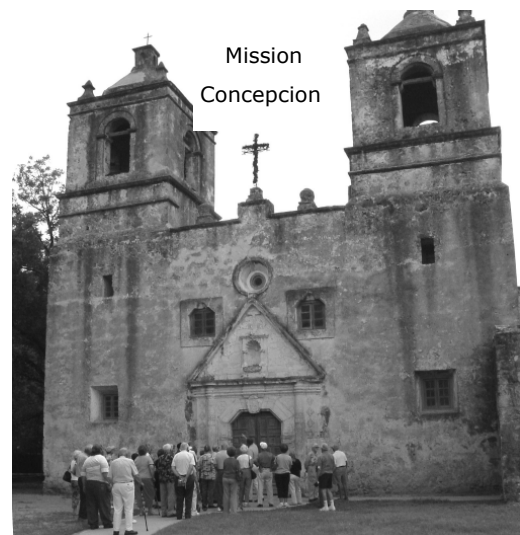
Most of Friday was taken up by a tour of the historic town of Gruene (pronounced like the color green by the locals). Our unusually comfortable motor coach took us along scenic Guadalupe River to this restored town of unique antiques, wine-tasting shops, general stores, and pottery works.. Gruene is fittingly advertised as "a little behind the times." Everything had the feel that you had been transported back in time to the nineteenth century.

Saturday morning brought a guided tour through the city of San Antonio to a shoe factory: San Antonio Shoes (**SAS**), the all-American-made comfort shoe company that started there in 1976. Our time was spent in the General Store which sells the adult shoes and handbags that are made in the nearby factory. The children's shoes are made inside the General Store; we could watch the artisan build the shoes — all hand sewn. For those not interested in shoes, there was an ice cream parlor and candy shop, gifts department, bags of popcorn for 5 cents, sodas for 10 cents, and bags of roasted nuts for 50 cents. A gigantic stuffed Brahma bull was a good prop for picture taking.



Lyle Hood won the drawing for a free pair of SAS not-inexpensive shoes.

Then it was on to the historic 1731 Spanish Mission Concepcion, followed by the famous Alamo Mission and Fort.



BUSINESS STUFF

The results of the Board of Directors meeting are reflected on the Page 2 masthead.

Debbie (Baranek) ROSE was named Executive Assistant to both the Board Chairman and Chief Executive Officer. She and Rick FITZPATRICK, who was elevated to Vice President, were named to the Board of Directors.

Audrey BROWN, in recognition of her many years of notable service, was named Vice President Emeritus. Martha PLOWDEN became Treasurer in addition to her duties as Newsletter Publisher.

Hubie and Pauline BOUCHARD officially joined the team as Refreshment Therapists. Bill BOWMAN became Properties Manager, with the responsibility to make sure that the Last Man Bottle(s) and the group/association banners are at each reunion.

Finally, Jack BOTTEN, Mary BOWMAN, Diane SENNEFF, and Bunny and John Sheffield joined the Volunteer Pool, available to fill any openings occurring on the Board.

GROUP PIX

Group picture taking had a different twist this year. In addition to pix of the veterans plus family and guests, those who have attended at least 10 reunions were captured for posterity. As usual, Jack BOTTEN, our resident photographic whiz, did his thing under a rather warm sun, with your Editor acting somewhat akin to a drill sergeant directing people to their appropriate group.

THE BANQUET

In a brief business session after a scrumptious dinner laid on by the hotel, Prez Glen MARGERUM reported on the actions taken by the Board of Directors (detailed above). I acknowledged the presence of the six guests from our "sister" group, the 27th FBG, and asked them to take a bow. (Their names appear on the enclosed Active Roster, together

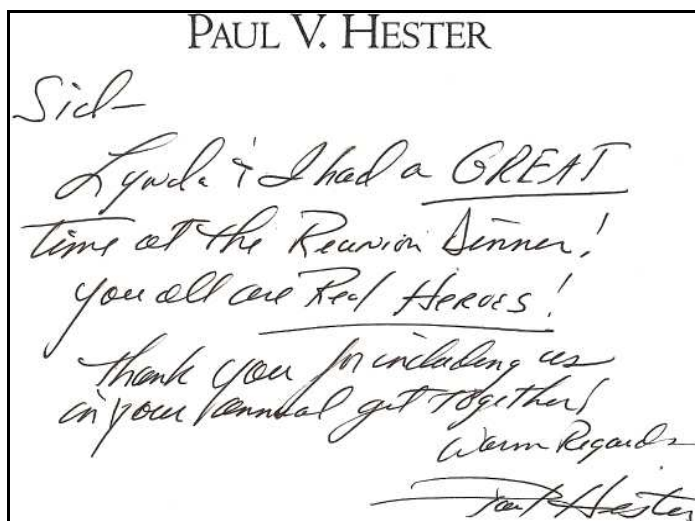
with those of four others who were last-minute cancellations.) I also asked the five or six people who do the un-acclaimed "grunt work" for the Association to take a bow.

Handsome plaques bearing the group's "Circle of Unity" in color were presented to Hubie and Pauline BOUCHARD and to Glen MARGERUM in recognition of their years of service to the Association.

Next, Col. Amy BOUCHARD, recently retired from the Air Force, introduced our distinguished guests, Gen. Paul V. HESTER and his wife Lynda. The recently-retired General's last assignment was as Commander, U.S. Air Forces, U.S. Pacific Command, Hickam AFB, Hawaii, with responsibility for Air Force activities spread over half the globe. He took the microphone and gave a brief, but impressive talk on his own background and today's Air Force, concluding with a tribute to our generation.

I then introduced our guest speaker, Col Michael S. HOUGH, Commander of our old 527th Squadron, now called the 527th Space Aggressor Squadron, based at Schriever AFB, Colorado Springs, CO. With a very tough act to follow, Col Hough delivered an interesting history of the squadron since World War II, its present day mission, and what they are doing to keep the heritage alive.

NOTE: Since the reunion, Sid received this note from Gen. Hester.



COMINGS AND GOINGS

No "hacker" report this year. Carole ALLEN and John SENNEFF were the only ones to sign up, so we had to cancel the tee times Al BURGOON had set up for two foursomes at the Randolph AFB course >>>> I had a long conversation with Ann BOUCHARD (attending her first reunion) that encompassed most of the world's problems, even those taboo subjects: religion and politics.>>>> Once again Angie DELUCA brought a large batch of her delicious cookies that have become such a tradition. What would we do without her?>>>> The FITZPATRICK "tribe" just did outnumber their TEEPLE counterparts: 8 to 7.

>>>> It was great to see Jim (and Wanda, with son James) GRISWOLD hanging in there for his 20th reunion. >>>> Carol MONAGHAN and her guest Rosanne ABBOTT graced the occasion with their presence, but we missed seeing her mom Anna DIANTONIO.

>>>> Those live wires Debbie and Randy ROSE were on the move, so as not to miss any important conversations, I assume. Also I noted her dad Carl BARANEK's obvious pride in the leading role they are taking in keeping the Association a going concern. >>>> Had a nice conversation with Mark BRADFORD who rode his Harley-Davidson hog from the Dallas area to be with us for the banquet.

>>>> When Charlotte REID takes a tour, she doesn't miss a thing. I noted this fact, particularly, in the historic town of Gruene where she appeared to check out every point of interest and antique store. >>>> Louie DELUCA was round and about pointing out different points of interest in our Historian Steve LUCE's book on the 86th.

THE LUCKY ONES WHO MADE IT THERE

- (11) ALLEN, Bill & Carole
- (19) BARANEK, Carl & Jackie
- (19) BOTTEN, Jack & Charlotte Reid
- (23) BOUCHARD, Hubie, Pauline & daughters Amy & Ann
- (08) BOWMAN, Bill & Mary
- (18) BOWMAN, James
- (23) BRADFORD, "Brad"& Jimmie
- (02) BRADFORD, Mark (son)
- (21) BROWN, Audrey
- (01) CHILSTROM, Kenneth (27th FBG)
- (25) DELUCA, Louis, Angie & sister Louise
- (01) DILLS, Charles (27th FBG)
- (25) DOLNY, John & Gisela
- (03) DOTSON, Leon
- (01) *FENNER, Ed, Bea & guest Nell Grover
- (26) FITZPATRICK, Jesse, son Denny & wife Donna, daughter Terry Vohs & guest Tan Leonard
- (05) FITZPATRICK, Rick, Peggy & sister-in-law Jill Sondeen
- (20) GRISWOLD, Jim, Wanda & son James
- (19) HARRIS, Lyndal & son Tom
- (01) HESTER, Gen. Paul & Lynda (Honored Guest)
- (12) HOOD, Lyle & Mildred
- (28) HOWARD, Sid
- (01) HOUGH, Col. Michael (Current 527th C.O and post-banquet speaker)
- (01) KENNEY, George & Shirley (27th FBG)
- (06) LITTLE, Ann & Gerry

NOTE: () = Number of reunions attended

* = First timer

- (28) MARGERUM, Glen
 (04) MONAGHAN (DiAntonio), Carol & guest
 Rosanne Abbott
 (01) OMO, Cecil & Harriett Cooch (27th FBG)
 (21) PLOWDEN, Dick, Martha & guests Pete &
 Margie LaPlante
 (03) ROSE, Debbie (Baranek) & Randy
 (20) SENNEFF, John & Diane
 (27) TEEPLE, Bob, Tobi, daughters Bunny
 Sheffield and Beth Whitney-Teeple &
 Bob, and guests Dempsey & Kara
 Malaney
 (18) WIESSNER, Dick & Ruth
 (15) WORLEY, Doyle & Marge Carroch

Late Cancellations

Fred, Betty, Ralph & Cindi BARENTINE
 Cliff & Mickey HARRISON
 Jim MICHAUD
 John SHEFFIELD
 Bob & Dorothy WHITE (27th FBG)
 Charles & Françoise WILLIAMS (27th FBG)

ATTENDANCE TALLY

Veterans....25 Wives....14 Widows....1
Family....22 Guests....13
TOTAL = 75

POTPOURRI

Mail addressed to Charles A. BARR (527 Crew Chief) in Cross Plains, TX has been returned by the Postal Service as "Not Deliverable." If you know a new address for Charlie, please advise the Secretary.

On the Page 2 masthead, please note the long-overdue addition of our inestimable overseers of the Hospitality Room, Hubie and Pauline Bouchard.

Also, you will see the addition of Bill Bowman as Properties Manager with responsibility for ensuring the Last Man Bottle, wall banners, and other memorabilia are on display in the Hospitality Room.

For anyone interested, the following items are available from Sid Howard:

- copies of the 27th FBG roster
- a cassette of the presentation by Harry "Doc" Dorris (former C.O.) dedicated to the support people of the 526th Squadron, September 16, 1989 at the San Antonio I reunion.

The following is excerpted from a copy of a book about WWII aircraft mechanics, *The Guys on the Ground*, loaned to me by Charles Dills. It was written by Fred W. Friendly, former President of CBS News and the creator, with Edward R. Morrow, of the documentary T.V. program *See It Now*. The book was published by Eagle Books in 1944.

"At another spot in Tunisia a solution, in the form of German equipment, was found to be a problem that had plagued pilots of the A-36's. The hand mechanism failed to release bombs when the fighter-bombers dived at their targets. Pilots wiggled their craft, but the rack clung to its load or, if the bombs were released by this maneuver, the rocking approach damaged the accuracy of the bombing. The situation could be remedied, it was concluded, by modifying the release mechanism in the bomb racks with a 3/8-inch spring capable of developing a pull of 25 pounds. This was nice to know, but there weren't any such things available. Then someone found them in the form of springs in the seat of German motorcycles. A hurry-up call went out to round up all abandoned German motorcycles. The harvest was rich, sufficient to correct the trouble on all the A-36's."

ROSTER MAINTENANCE

Data for this page has been intentionally omitted.

SICK CALL

As usual Fred (527 Engrg) and Bette BARENTINE had made their reservations for the reunion (their 27th), when Fred suffered a major stroke on September 2nd. In the hospital he made such good progress in his walking and talking that he was transferred to a rehab center after a week. He returned home two weeks later on September 23. Why don't you join the many who have called or sent get-well messages.

Vern MAXEY (525 Pilot) had to cancel his reservations for the reunion when his doctors strongly advised him against making the trip. After several months of evaluation, it was determined that the mass in Vern's left shoulder, collar bone area was malignant, and he is undergoing chemotherapy and rehabilitation. He has moved from his one-man apartment to an assisted living facility (see Roster Maintenance).

IN MEMORIAM

BAHR, Grace A. (527) – Deceased 2004 according to Social Security Death Index (SSDI). She and Harvey were Lifetime Members and she attended the Fresno reunion with him.

BURGOON, Albert A. "Jim" (527 & GHQ) – Deceased 07/12/08. Interred 07/17/08 at Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery in San Antonio. In our last Newsletter, I reported that Al, as host of our pending reunion, had made all the hotel and activity arrangements, but had been in poor health since back surgery in February. He appeared to be making a recovery when he developed pneumonia and passed away. His son, Steve, you will recall, also passed away shortly after our Indianapolis reunion last year. Al was, of course, a Lifetime Member of the Association, and this year was his fifteenth reunion.

CALABRO. Anthony D. (Tony) (526) – Deceased 2000 according to SSDI. Tony did not attend any reunions and was carried on our Inactive Roster.

FRISBY, Joy M. (526) – Deceased 2000 in Las Vegas 2008.

HARRIS, Clarcie (525) – Passed away on 09/11/08 after a long battle with cancer. She and Lyndal were early and longtime supporters of the Association as Lifetime Members. San Antonio was Lyndal's 19th reunion, but Clarcie's health did not permit her to attend the last few years.

ROBY, James H. (525) – Deceased 07/08/08, six days after his 89th birthday, according to the obituary notice sent by his wife Edna. He served 18 years in the Air Force, including Korea as well as WWII.

SMITH, Lowell A. "Bulldog" (27th FBG Secretary) – Passed away July 12, 2008 at the Veterans Hospital in Kentucky.

VALUKONIS, Alfonso (GHQ Commun. Officer) – Deceased 2002 according to SSDI. He never came to a reunion and was carried on our Inactive Roster.

From the Archives—Niagara Falls Reunion
Thelma & Tink Kastner; John & Germaine Thompson



(Continued from Page 8.)

The following comrades carried on our *Not Located* list have been identified as deceased by the SSDI:

BORLAND, Charles A. (526 Chief Mech.) - 2001

CANN, Elvin (525 Aircraft Mech.) - 2006

HAYDEN, James E. (526 Orderly Room) - 2006

HUDGINS, Wiley P. (525 Armament) - 1970

JENNINGS, John C. (525 Maintenance) - 2005

JOHNSTON, George W.B. (526 Mess Hall) - 2003

KING Jr., Burton F. (526 Armament) - 1966

LEVESQUE, Dolor H. (525 Ordnance) - 08/1969

REESE, Charles H. (525 Armament) - 2005

ROSS, William C. (525 Orderly Room) - 2008

TIMMERMAN, Z.B. (525 Aircraft Mech.) - 01/1973

BACK IN TIME WITH BILL JAYNE

Continuing our recall of old friend, barrister, and Group Headquarters Secretary's droll wit and way of expressing himself, here is what Bill had to say in his follow-up report on the San Antone doin's in '89:

"Right here I gotta tell ya about the Menger Hotel (where we stayed). On street level directly across the road from the Alamo, the Menger operates a Saloon where ex-Pres. Teddy Roosevelt recruited his famous Rough Riders in 1898. Teddy's Battle Cry, I'm told, was 'CHARGE'. That still gets results in the Saloon but now 'ya gotta have a VISA or MASTERCARD too."

Here's an excerpt from a 5/3/88 letter from Bill: "You asked for suggestions for a reunion site in 1991. Well--once these guys see this side of the world, they'll insist on coming back. I stopped at the Waldorf and: per person per night I can get great reservations on the 36th, 37th and 38th floors @ \$2190 plus tax. Also, we can have the Waldorf Towers as a hospitality suite with an open bar and free parachutes for an additional \$14,775 for three days. Tax is extra of course. At the Waldorf we will be 4 blocks from University Hospital - 11 blocks from the United Nations - 12 blocks from Radio City Music Hall - there is hourly chopper service from Kennedy Airport to the Pan Am Bldg five blocks south of the Waldorf. Finally, we can probably line up the Apollo Ballroom Stompers for a banquet in the basement of the Riverside Church for free. Lemme know what ya think."

DISCIPLINE

A school teacher injured his back and had to wear a plaster cast around the upper part of his body. It fit under his shirt and was not noticeable at all. On the first day of the term, still with the cast under his shirt, he found himself assigned to the toughest students in school.

Walking confidently into the rowdy classroom, he opened the window as wide as possible and then busied himself with desk work. The classroom became a bit unruly and he admonished them. This happened several times.

When he could do work at his desk, the strong breeze from the window made his tie flap annoyingly. He kept rearranging and rearranging the tie as the class raised its level of unruliness.

Finally, becoming disgusted with the wayward tie, he stood up and took a big stapler off his desk and stapled the tie to his chest in several places.

Discipline was not a problem from that day forth.

FINANCIAL REPORT—FIRST THREE QUARTERS 2008

BALANCE AT CLOSE OF YEAR 2007 (123107)

\$6,148.95

Receipts for Three Quarters

Annual Dues (7 @ \$10.00)	\$70.00
Lifetime Membership (1 @ \$100.00)	\$100.00
Voluntary Contributions.....	\$580.00
Activities Reservation Forms (ARFs).....	\$8,900.00
Sales (P-47 customized prints & Newsletter Binders)	\$346.00
Bank Interest.....	<u>\$11.22</u>
	\$10,007.22

\$16,156.17

Disbursements for Three Quarters

Printing & Postage	\$917.11
Bulk Mail Renewal Permit	\$175.00
Office Supplies	\$218.19
Franked Envelope Permit (one-time charge)	\$175.00
Computer Supplies	\$172.36
Funeral Flowers	\$70.02
Memorial Donation.....	\$50.00
Search Fee	\$19.90
Reunion Tours.....	\$4,792.00
Reunion Banquet.....	\$2,146.13
Hospitality Room	\$566.23
Recognition Plaques.....	\$120.00
Activities Reservation Refunds.....	<u>\$940.00</u>
	\$10,361.94

BALANCE AT CLOSE OF THIRD QUARTER (093008)

\$5,794.23**FOOTNOTES TO FINANCIAL REPORT**

1. \$10 Annual Dues, \$100 Lifetime (Cumulative).
2. Make checks payable to **86th FBG Assoc.**
3. VC = Voluntary Contribution
4. Dues/VC payers since last Newsletter:
 - Frank REPKE (GHQ Post war) - Dues
 - Leon DOTSON (527) - VC in memory of Bill "Goose" Goslin
 - Carmine FASANO (GHQ) - VC; and Bob TEEPLE (527) - VC
5. Are you a Lifetime Member? If you are, there is an "LM" followed by 4 numbers in the bracketed information following your name on the roster. If it is not there, please contact the Secretary.
6. Don't forget, all contributions are tax deductible if you itemize deductions on your tax return.