

THE 457th BOMB GROUP ASSOCIATION

811 NORTHWEST "B" STREET

BENTONVILLE, ARKANSAS 72712

JUNE 1976

DEAR FIREBALLERS:

Reunion time is almost here.....this is the last newsletter for the July 3-8 reunion.

RESIGNED: Our President, William T. "Bill" Wilburn, has resigned. He will still try to make it to our reunion.

NEW PRESIDENT: Howard Larsen, Vice President, has taken over as President. He and wife, Fern, were down to Bentonville, Arkansas two weeks ago and put final plans for reunion on the road toward July.

Quote:

I am happy to report to you that in response to my letter to Monogram Models, Inc., telling them about our 457th Bomb Group Reunion and our Group's special interest in the B-17, the Company donated 5 Models for use at our Reunion. They have requested pictures of these B-17's showing the various ways we will use them at the Reunion -- such as, possibly, pictures with the Crews, centerpieces at our Banquet, etc. They in turn will use these pictures in connection with their advertising. If the members of our Group agree, it is my further thought that "chances" can be sold on these B-17 Models and the money realized put into our treasury.

It would be greatly appreciated and would certainly facilitate Registration if each of you would make your own Name Tags and have them on your person when you register -- Let's all try to do this. Thanks.

Fern and I look forward to seeing all of you in Bentonville.

Howard Larsen, President

457th Bomb Group Association

LOCATION OF REUNION: Once again..Bentonville is 7 miles south of Missouri State Line on Hwy 71 and about 30 miles East of Oklahoma, in the Northwest corner of Arkansas. When you arrive if no one is on hand to greet you, call Homer 273-3908. Those arriving Fayetteville, Arkansas Airport (25 miles to our South) needing transportation to Bentonville, write the week before to Homer. Joplin, Missouri is 60 miles to the north of us. Tulsa, Oklahoma is 120 miles to the west of Bentonville. A car can be rented at these airports. Private planes can be landed at Bentonville airport. Buses will be used for transportation after you arrive. Trailers and campers can camp at Beaver Lake, 7 miles.

3RD REUNION: Wives, friends, children all welcome

Three Briggs daughters, two other Bentonville people, Homer, Mickey will be on hand to guide and give directions to all areas. Some changes have been made in the program, due to circumstances beyond our control. Being the fourth and Bicentennial we have to work around other activities. Pay all fees on arrival. Do not send money in at this time. Pick up various tickets on registration. PLEASE RESERVE TICKETS TO VARIOUS ACTIVITIES NOW....WE MUST KNOW HOW TO PLAN. All free time can be spent talking, visiting, swimming, fishing (Beaver Lake). Bring own gear for fishing and swimming.

PROGRAM:

JULY 3rd SATURDAY: 7:30 PM - 10:00 PM Registration Coffee Shop Holiday Inn (Come as you are)

JULY 4th SUNDAY: 7:30 AM Sunny Welcome Breakfast - Buffet Holiday Inn (pay own)

10:00 AM - 12:00 AM continued registration - Lobby

JULY 5th MONDAY: 9:00 AM Bring all Mementos, pictures (clearly marked with your name) to add to the historians collected letters, photos and etc., to be viewed by all - Benton County Fair Grounds Auditorium.

10:00 AM: Men's Business meeting

1:00 PM: Arkansas National Guard noon chow catering \$4.00

Immediately afterward: Airforce films shown: "Memphis Belle", "Airforce Story", "Target For Today." Individual England films brought to show. (We have a super 8 or 8mm projector) Others needed bring your own projector, have screen. Pick up personal mementos.

6:30 PM: Cocktail hour - Style show given by "Ms Betty" & "P J's". Group bar tender pay as you drink.

7:30 PM: Buffet (Pay at door) \$4.00 each dinner.

JULY 6th TUESDAY: Morning "open" at present

1:00 PM: Bus Tour Pea Ridge Civil War National Park. Eureka Springs "Little Switzerland." Shopping "Antique Land" etc. Christ of Ozark Statue (Seven stories high and overlooks four states) Bring own sack lunch for night lunch.

8:30 PM: Evening Live performance "Passion Play" Tickets reserved now have 10% discount-\$4.00 or \$5.00 seats each. Reserve now pay at registration.

JULY 7th WEDNESDAY: 10:00 AM: Pictures made of Group, Squad, Friends (Anyone interested in doing this, write now, before we need to engage another)

Lunch on own

1:00 - 3:00 PM: Drop-in Coffee-Homer Briggs' Home viewing Historian collection.

6:30 PM: Social hour (457th Group Bar) pay as you drink. "Hill N' Dale" Restaurant Top Floor Bella Vista.

7:30 PM: Gala Banquet, Memorial service and dancing Local Dance Band will play 40's tunes. (Formal or informal, as you desire.) Total evening ticket \$5.00

JULY 8th THURSDAY: 10:00 AM: Repeat film showing, those wanting to see it but were not here Monday. (Please indicate)

12:00 AM: Noon lunch Holiday Inn as a group buffet. (Pay own)

2:00 PM: Get together Homer Briggs' home, view historian collection, etc. Any other suggestions welcomed.

BRITISH NEWSPAPER ACCOUNT: Aviation News -Feb. 20- 4 Mar 1976, Volume 4, No. 19 by John B. Wilson. Address Walls Gardner Durton and Co., Ltd, Foygate, Surrey England. A page long story of 457th Bomb Group with mention of Bentonville's July 4, 1976 reunion.

SURPRISE: L. B. Bradley is being surprised by Airforce Son by the son bringing him and wife to reunion as a complete surprise.

DONATION: William Morse of Mich. donated a "Fireball" book to the Alconbury US Airforce Base Library, while in England (Summer of 1975).

LAMAR SMITH: Writes he has been in touch with Ed Dozier's brother Creagh Dozier.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT: A statement will be given at the reunion and mailed to members afterwards not attending.

CARETAKER GEORGE TOWNSEND COMING FROM ENGLAND: Those voting to donate to caretaker fund direct please send \$5.00. This will pay for his fare from London to Chicago. He is coming, arriving June 26, 1976 with his wife for a three weeks stay at Bentonville.

B-17 AIRPLANE MEMORIAL: We are still working toward obtaining a B-17 to be placed in Bentonville by the vote of the members. Donations have been placed in the Bank Savings fund. This will be discussed at business meeting and voted what to do by the attendees.

CURRENT ROSTER: 525 plus current addresses. Have sent hundreds of inquiries with old address; not all have joined.

CURRENT ADDRESSES: An up-to-date file has been kept to be handed to future Secretary-Treasurer. Please send in a filled-in questionnaire, so your name will stay on the mailing list. If you move please send change of address.

THE STONE AMERICAN MONUMENT: We now have pictures of the monument with grounds being kept clean and George has repainted the monument to match the Church, also repaired it first.

STATE SOUVENIR: Some confusion on this.....A sample.....From Kansas reunion, they got little packets of wheat from their state capitol. I wrote parks and recreation and received booklets. Just something that is free from your state capitol. Literature telling about your state.

MOVED NO ADDRESS:

Col. Thomas McGovern, Ala.
Paul A. Umoff, Tex,

George Cole, NC
Joe Noonan, NY

President:
Howard Larsen
1220½ W. First St.
Topeka, Kansas 66606

Treasurer & Secretary:
Homer Briggs
811 NW "B" St.
Bentonville, AR 72712

Historian:
Lourrene (Mickey) Briggs
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