## THOUGHTS FROM THE PRESIDENT:

In about 2 years the 457th Bomb Group Assn will be holding another reunion. Any "Fireballer" who has suggestions in that regard should write them to a member of the Board of Governors so they may be considered in planning for that event. Hopefully it will be the best and most comprohensive assembly we have had to date. All of us look forward to seeing old friends and making new ones at that meeting.

It is noted that many of us having attended past reunions have felt (some have openly expressed it) that these gatherings are repetitious and perhaps futile in certain ways. Doubtless this results from specifically, hearing the same war stories too many times and, in general hinging our meetings on the war time associations and experiences of the male members of the group. Perhaps that is just what is wanted but if some other purpose for the organization is desireable then we must bend our efforts in such a direction.

This could take many avenues. There are many worthwhile charities to which contributions both in time and funds can be made. Also with our military background perhaps we could be of value to the Airforce & our military forces by supporting them openly, perhaps in particular as regards the volunteer force concept, or from a different viewpoint perhaps support and aid groups interested in promoting World Peace. "Hope", "Care", the Cancer Society, and many other such organizations carry lofty goals deserving of anyone's consideration.

There are all kinds of other opportunities to be of service of course. The point is that the decision to do any of them must be an organization one. It may be that most members prefer to keep it as a social club with a periodic meeting over the coming years without other involvements. But if all members will think about this subject and mentally capsule their ideas then it can be discussed at the 1979 reunion. Perhaps we can formulate some plan for our future, taking care to not preclude the groups ability to guide its future actions by what we activate at this time.

We must guard, of course, against attempting objectives that are so controversial as to rebuff segments of our membership and lead to fragmentation of the organization. In my opinion that poses the greatest threat to be considered from any such projected undertaking. So bring your thoughts on this subject to the next reunion. Although many of us keep lauding these Bentonville tolks, but do none of the work, we do appreciate all the efforts of Homer & Mickey Briggs. As you know without them and their home town Chamber of Commerce staff this newsletter would not be. Thanks Homer and Mickey. All the Best,

Bill Siler, President

DEAR FIREBALLERS: MAY 1977

I do hope that everyone will forgive us for being late on the newsletter the first copy since reunion. Many excuses can be made, illness of boys, daughter & Mickey, Mickey's loss of her Dad, Homer & Jerry's trip to England, school sports, new granddaughter, bad weather, lazy, new address card file of almost 600 men, check new names old address, and etc,& an investigation into the printing shows enormous expense for our funds. At present we can buy the paper, stencils, Mickey types stencils, and Bentonville Chamber of Commerce memographs free of charge. We have now corrected addresses of 562 men. Have had over 50 moved and no address recently. Inorder to have postage for mailing we need dues to be paid in. Mailing list only \$1.00 each year. Regular Fireball membe∦s \$5.00 each year. A membership card will be sent as first dues paid, after that a receipt will be issued. Those already paid and have not a receipt or an inital membership card, please advise Homer Briggs. If you want to recieve the newsletters and roster, send the \$1.00 each yr for costs, unless you are a regular member. LOST ADDRESSES: If you know these men's new address please send. Letters to them with our present address have returned. Luther Pelfry...Jerry Grossman...Stankey Sydowski...Albert H Alford...Col Thomas McGovern... Theodore J Kopanski...Samuel A Connor, dentist...Lt. Col Paul V Chapman.. Vincent Balloglino...F.D.Alspaugh. Geo Cole... Howard R Hendrickson. George & Ena Townsend asked that in our newsletter we SAWTRY, ENGLAND: try to convey the thanks to the men of the 457th group making it possible for a exciting trip to the US & the 1976 reunion. They enjoyed their trip & hope to return again. Homer met their plane in Chicago returning by car to Bentonville, they stayed in our home during their stay. Many of the men and wives took them to breakfast, dinner, etc. They took home many gifts also from the group. Homer & family took them to Joplin, Mo to board their plane. A red wash stung George and at airport he found he had left one bag with urgent medicine at Bentonville. After boarding the plane in Chicago their plane lost engine power over ocean and returned to Boston for repairs. They were taken to the Hilton Hotel and given a royal tour of Boston, then on to home safe and sound. Their daughter, Marilyn, since has returned to Albuquerque, NM Air base with her USAF husband formerly of Alconbury USAF. The Townsends since have had several of the group to visit them at Sawtry. Homer, son Jerry among them. PETERBOROUGH HISTORIANS OF 457th: The 5 English Historians were voted to be associate members and were so pleased when presented their cards. These men have requested their address & phone numbers be listed with a message that if given a few days notice they will be glad to give transport from Peterborough to Glatton field. They will be glad to help you in anyway when traveling in England. Bernard Baines, 29 Western Ave, Peterborough PEl 4HS England (Phone 67888) Gordon E Townsend, 17 Avon Court, Gunthorpe, Peterborough PE 4 6YU (PH: 72864 John Walker, 4 Farring Don Close Burford Estate Peterborugh (Phone 3168)) Eric Brumby , 82 Bluebell ave, Perterborough PE  $13 \times H$  Cams, England George Townsend, #6 Moyne Road, Sawtry, Huntingdon Cambs England UK PE 17 PICTURES: 1976 REUNION: taken of the group at Park Springs. We still have copies of color 8 x 10 \$5.25, includes postage. Black & White 8 x 10 are \$2.75.Black & White 5 x 7 are \$1.75. If you ordered one but not recieved please contact Homer at once. Those are the men who stayed for the Business meeting. Names of men as in picture were: front row, from left: Roy James, Gadseden, Tn; Al Roeckle, Mo; Frank Anderson, Ga; Dee Owsley, Mo; Ken Rurode, Mo; Bill Morse, Mi; Bill Siler of Ca; Howard Larsen, Ks; George Townsend of Sawtry, England; Aaron Ayres, Or; Ed Reppa, Mi; Paul Birchen, Mn; Walt Ginter, WS; Owen McDough, Pa; Ron Weber, Ill. Middle row, from left: L.M.Lackey, NC; Homer Briggs, Bentonville, ; Ken Kenyon of Ia; Hurchel Teague MC; Bryce Lamkin, AZ; Claude Gideon, Ca; Ed Schorr, Md; George

Overby, Ms; Lamar Smith, Ms; Winfred Kincaid, In; Robert Dvorak, Nb; LB

Bradley of Fulton Kv. Back Row from left. Claude Triplett.Ks:

## 8th AIRFORCE NEWS:

Item 1. The staff of the 8th AF News, the journal of the 8th Air Force Historical Society, will put together a book of photographs of the WW II activities of the airmen of the greatest numbered air force of all time. We solicit original photographs, no copies. All details of identification should be put on a separate sheet of paper. When sending more than one print, pencil a reference number on a corner. The procious prints will be handled carefully and returned. Address: 8th AF News, Box 4738 Hollywood, Fla 33023. Lt. Col John Woolnough, editor.

The 8th Airforce clearinghouse is attempting to locate some 300,000 men assigned to the 8th Air Force in England and other 8th Air Force personnel who served in WW II. Send a stamped, self addressed envelope to the 8th Airforce Clearinghouse % Elmer Fessler, 3911 NW 173 Terr, Opa-Locka,Fl 33055. Included should be the identification of each person's unit number & location. In return, clearinghouse will send individual information on his unit & on the 8th Airforce Historical Society. (This INFORMATION HAS BEEN ASKED TO BE PUT IN EVERYONE'S LOCAL PAPER)

item 3. 8th AFHS Membership Application, 1977 Dues: \$5.00 (\$6.00 overseas) Make payment to 8th AFHS, 495 NE 157 Terr, Miami, Fla 33162. We have found many 457th members thru this, including many friends from other groups.

Sth Airforce 1977 3rd reunion: St. Louis, Mo Oct 6-9
Contact Chairman: John Greenwood, 607 State Street, Alton, Illinois 62002
Tentative schedule: Thurs, 6 Oct, 2130 Cocktail Party & Golf Tournament
Briefing; Fri, 70ct, 0800 bus to Golf Course, 0830 Breadfast 0930 starting
time. 1230 Lunch 1430 bus to Stouffer's Riverview Terrace Hotel 2130PM
reunion Cocktail Party.; Sat, 8 Oct, 0830 coffee & Danish, 0900 General
Meeting, 1130 Soup & Sandwich Lunch, 1300 Depart for Busch Gardens Tour,
1900 Cocktail Reception 2000 Reunion Banquet Speaker to be announced Sun
9 Oct 0800 Buffet Breakfast. Any one requesting they will print any unit
mini reunions in conjunction with 8th AF reunion. Details will be mailed
us us soon, or you if you write to John Greenwood.

item 5. Those 457th interested will have a mini reunion at that time. Let a Board member or the President know. If you are interested in 8th AF reunion write now to John Greenwood, also send 8th AFHS membership dues to Miami.

At the 8th AF reunion in 1976 England the 457th Bomb Group thru the efforts of the 457th Associated members of England-Gordon Townsend, George Townsend, Eric Brumby, John Walker, Bernard Baines- placed a wreath to the memory of the 457th lost in battle at the National Cemetary in Cambridge during the special ceremony presented by the AF Chaplin which was taped by Homer Briggs. Pictures were also taken by Homer.

item 7
Any group wanting a wreath placed on Memorial Day observance in the future must get the money in the hands of your FOTE Man in England. Steve Gotts. (Eric Brumby of Peterborough would take care of this for our group) Cost around \$15.00 as group memorials.

8th AirForce Reunion in London 1976: Hosted by "FOTE"(Friends of the Eighth in England). The 457th group that attended: Clayton, Marie Bejot, Neb; J Francis, Madelyn Angier, Vermont; Paul, Rhoda Birchen, Minn; Joe, Iris Falcone, Mass; Arthur, Jean Fitch, Ma; Claude, Margaret Gideon, Ca; Homer, Jerry Briggs, Ar; & Tom Goff, Maryland. After London & Cambridge tours, Mayor of Cambridge at a banquet made everyone Free Men of the City. Also Attended a social at his office later. Attended concert "The Millionaire's" interruption of the Glen Miller band and tunes. Memorial services at the US Madingly Cementary at Cambridge with 457th Memorial wreath placed at the base of the Flag along with other members of 8th AF groups wreaths. All bused to Duxford Air Museum and toured the different planes, hangers, with Tea, Cake, & Beer. An announcement was made, that Duxford would be

NOTICE: Authors of Books contact us to relay their names for information on books they are writing: Andy G Wilson, 27, Fairlands Road, Guildford, Surrey, England. Associate member of 8th AF Historical Society, interested in hearing from people involved with the missions week of 20th-25th Feb. 1944. Writing account of the Big Week Bombing series . Kevin Born, Historian Archivist, RR3 Box 2A , Humboldt, Neb 68376 (wants Anicdotes, clippings press releases and stories relating to strange, interesting humorous experiences of crew members of 457th, Photos) G.K. Lerch, Melemstr 20, 6 Frankfurt/ Main 1 West Germany (research book covering Frankfurt WWII. Has German version wants American version) Martin W Bowman, 131 Aylsham Road, Norwich, NR 3 2AD, England (writing history of the Fortess Air Divisions, Title "Fields of Little America" Want men own story. Photos. Prisoner of war 's story. (Maybe published by now) ). other letters to 457th. Ronald E Hinkle, Capt USAF Chief, office of Information Dept of the AF, Headquarters loth Tactical Reconnaissance Wing (USAFE) RaF Alconbury, Huntingdon, Cams, PE 17 5 DA(trying to locate: Mr. Jerome Adams former 457th group lived in Maine at one time also RAF Gatsby) Any info on Lt. Wilbur Hill Collins appreciated by his brother J Warren Collins PO Box 1163, Sylacaugo, Ala 35150 (Lt Collins went down latter part of War.)

FUTURE REUNIONS: All of the request for future reunions and information on convention places have and will be forwarded on to one of the board members. If you have any information or requests or questions on the future date or place of the next reunion please contact one of the following: President: Bill Siler, 1132 N Orchid Lompoc, Ca 93436

Exective Board Member: Dan Graham, 21 Redbird Lane, Brownsburg, Ind 46112

Dee Owsley, 2011 Shoreham Drive, Florissant, Mo 63033; Ed Reppa, 2632

Edgewood, Dearborn, Mich 481224; Ken Kinyon, 1628 Hollywood, Iowa City, Ia 52240

NEWS: Please send news to us or any officer, so it can be in the next one. HISTORIAN: Be sure to send any photo's, info, mementos to Mickey Briggs. We now have close to 20 books of collected material.

Discussion at 1976 reunion was- for plans to go ahead and obtain a B17 to put in Bentonville as a memorial to 457th Bomb Group. A fund is being kept in a savings Account until final plans are made on how to get the plane. The Bentonville airport will let us have the space to place it. DAN GRAHAM: writes Roger Freeman publication "B 17 Fortress at War" sounds like something many of our members might be interested in. Also another publication "Fields of Little America" story of the 8th AF stations in England during WWII. Author Martin Bowman (see his name and address among those wanting info).

VISITS: Vice President, Howard Larson and Fern, Kansas visted Briggs in April rehashs reunion, goup newsletter, He and Fern at present over in England visiting Glatton Base. Also Claude, Phyllis Tripplet, Ks in April. Lots of calls and letters from all that enjoyed reunion.

Reunion Attendees 1976 Bentonville July: If I have missed anyone let us Dee, Marguerite Owsley of Florissant, Mo; Earl, Elaine Pledger of Bellwille, Ar; Lamar Smith of Florence, Miss; L.B., Mary June, of Fulton, Kentucky (Conner Dozier(brother of Ed Dozier) & Maida, guests Hudson, Ruby Lee Moore, of Nanafalia, Ala; Speedy, Helen Phillips of Austin, Tex; Charlie, Billie Blackwell of St Charles, Mo; Robert Seastrand, Charlene of DeWitt, Io; Ras, Jean Clausen of Orlando, Fla; Henry, Ella Friedrich of Chicago, Ill; Walt Ginter, Meta, of Kieler, Wis; Bill, Erika Morse of Empire, Mich & guests Erwin, Helma Kalienke of Germany; Paul, Rhoda, Birchen of Hastings, Minn; Stephan, Kathryn Griff of Chicago, Ill; Ken Kinyon, Donna of Iowa City, Io Owen, Betty Riggenberg of Tulare, Ca; Tom, LaWanda Laird of Morton, Miss; Eugene June Butscha of Cincinniti, Oh; Guests Betty, Ivan Grant, Bentonville; Gene, Helen Smith(was at Polbrook) of Bella Vista, Ar; Diane Homes (widow of 8th AF man) Bentonville, Ar: Richard, Barbara Gibbs of Vermillion, Ks; Roy James, Arvelene of Gadseden, Tenn; Edgar, Marion Lanzoni of Trenton, NJ; Talmadge, Opel Williams of Granite Falls, NC; Hurshel, Florence Teague of Hickory, NC George , Maxie Overbyof Jackson, Miss; Julius Smith of Little Rock, Ar; Dan, Norma Graham of Brownsburg, Ind; Bill, Ruth Siler of Lompoc, Ca; Claude, Phyllis Triplett of Burden, Ks; Ken, Blanche Rurode of St. Joe, Mo; L. M, Duo MC. I and a Dominian Dobles Color Divise Ill Fd Many

ment is in cementary looking out across the Connington Glatton Air Base, is called "The Stone American". George Townsend with the other 4 Peterborough 457th historian's watch over the care of it & place flowers on it memorial day. We then took the group's picture.. Pres: Howard Larsen. Topeka, Ks presiding called to order. H Larsen read Topeka 1973 Treasure report, Homer Briggs read 1976 current treasure report. Mintues were read by Mickey Briggs, secry to Homer B. There was a discussion when the next reunion. Voted to keep 3 yrs as bylaws read. Bylaws were , distributed to all, Copies can be . had, send self addressed stamped envople. Discussion of dues. S.B. Marshall, Me made motin for \$7.50 yearly dues, 2nd by Ken Kinyon, Ia, Note called motin defeated. Bill Siler, Ca made motin to have Additional Article XI to read.: Current paid up status of membership dues is a requirement of good standing. Dues are due annually and in the year of a general meeting previous to the first general meeting of that year. Dues shall be established annually by the executive board but shall not exceed \$5.00. As of 1 Jan 1977 dues are established as \$5.00. All members as of 31 Dec 1976 are in good standing as to dues payments. Robert Seastrand, Ia 2nd. Vote called, 3 opposed, 38 for Motin carried. It was voted to have a \$1.00 Yearly fee for those not wanting to be members, but wanting to stay on mailing list. Those not sending \$100 will be dropped from mailing list. Ken Kinyon, made motion to transfer present General fund bal to Townsend Fund(as cost to maintain memorial\* to help defray the plane trip from Joplin, Mo to Chicago. 2nd by Ken Rurode, Mo motion carried. Disccusion of B-17 plane and possible ways to obtain one for display & ways to make money for fund. Bill Siler made a motin to have Artice VI to read as : ( now reads: The Executive Board members shall consist of the President, the Vice Pres. & Secretary-Treasurer plus additional members appoointed by the President) to be added to.... Three Executive board members will be elected, they with officers will decide the reunion time and place. S.B. Marshall, Me 2nd motion. Disccusion. Ed Reppa, Mich moved to change to 4 members instead of 3, to have uneven number to vote. There was a second, discussion Vote called, carried. Historian expense allowed by Exec Board. Reunion place discussed ... Several suggestions. It was voted to have 5 historians of Peterborough as Associate members. Election was held. PRESIDENT: Frank Anderson, Ga nominated Bill Siler, Ca. Tom Goff, Md, 2nd... Ken Kinyon, Ia nominated Howard Larsen, Al Roeckle, Mo 2nd. Stanley Brown, Wa moved nomination cease, Aaron Ayers, Ore 2nd. BILL SILER was elected President for 1976-79. VICE PRESIDENT: James Carey Ind, nominated, declined, Tom Goff nominated, declined. Howard Larson nominated by Al Roeckle, Mo. Dan Graham, Ind nominated by Homer Briggs. Andy Anderson, GA. moved to cease 2nd by Stanley Brown Wa. HAWARD LARSON was elected Vice-Pres...SecRY\*TREAS: Howard Larson nominated Homer Briggs, Stanley Brown 2nd Vote carried unanimously.HOMER BRIGGS IS SECRY\*TREAS.EXEC BOARD: Dan Graham nominated by Tom, Goff, 2nd Stanley Brown, Dee Owsley, Mo by Ken Kinyon 2nd Al Roeckle, Ed Reppa, Mich, by Aaron Ayers, Ore, 2nd Owen McDonough, Pa Ken Kinyon by Dee Owsley, 2nd Ken Rurode, Mo, Ken Rurode, by Homer Briggs, 2nd Ras Clausen, Fla, Red Morse, Mich, by Ken Rurode, 2nd Sumner Marshall, Me Nominations closed. Elected were DAN GRAHAM, DEE OWSLEY, ED REPPA, KEN KIn-YON. ANY ADDITIONS OR CORRECTIONS TO THE MINTUES PLEASE LET US KNOW,,,,... REMINDER: If you want to attend the 3rd stateside reunion of the 8th Air Force Historical Society at St. Louis, Mo Oct 6 thru 9, 1977, be sure to contact Reunion Services, Inc. Box 4738 Hollywood, Fla 33023. Write for your brochure, & information on Historical Society NOW. Those attending 457'ers may have a mini reunion. Reservation guaranteed deadline is September 22, 1977. As to the mini 457th reunion write to Pres: Bill Siler or a board member for info.

PRESIDENT Bill Siler 1132 N Orchid

VICE PRESIDENT Howard Larsen 1220 ½ West 1st St Lompoc, Ca 93436 Topeka, Ks 66606

SECRETARY-TREASURE Homor L Briggs 811 Northwest "B" St Bentonville, Ar 72712 Briggs

HISTORIAN Lourrene "Mickey"

## EXECUTIVE BOARD:

Dan Graham Ken Kinyon 21 Redbud Lane 1628 Hollywood Brownsburg. Ind Iowa City. Io

Edward Reppa 2632 Edgewood Dearborn, Mich Dee K Owsley 2011 Shoreham Florissant, Mo