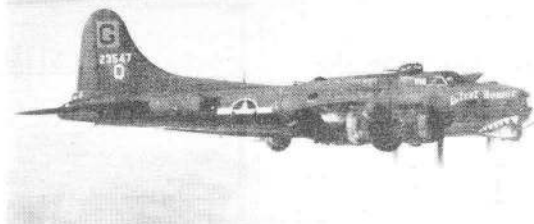


COMBAT UNITS

HQ. SQUADRON
548th BOMB SQ.
549th BOMB SQ.
550th BOMB SQ.
551st BOMB SQ.



SUPPORT UNITS

424th AIR SVS. GP.
877th CHEM. CO. (AO)
DET. 155, 18th AWS

"The Mighty Eighth Reunion Group"

385th BOMBARDMENT GROUP MEMORIAL ASSOCIATION

GREAT ASHFIELD — SUFFOLK, ENGLAND

STATION 155

ASSOCIATION OFFICERS

PRESIDENT

JAMES H. EMMONS
1649 Via Tovita
San Lorenzo, CA 94580
(415) 278-0412

VICE PRESIDENTS

WARREN CERRONE
294 Linden Road
Birmingham, MI 48009
(313) 642-7584

WINIFRED WALLS
RD1
Reynoldsville, PA 15851
(814) 653-2984

REGISTERED ADDRESS

JOHN C. FORD, Editor
7204 Easy Street
Camp Springs, MD 20031
(301) 449-6382

SECRETARY

CHARLES EDELSTEIN
1719 W. Claremont Street
Phoenix, AZ 85015
(602) 242-8609

TREASURER

JOHN F. PETTENDER
117 Home Park Road
Venice, FL 33595
(813) 488-7569

HONORARY MEMBERS

Gen. James Doolittle
Gen. Curtis E. LeMay
Gen. E. P. Partridge
L/Gen. Ira C. Eaker
B/Gen. Elliott Vandevanter, Jr.
Col. George Y. Jumper
Ruel Weikert, Past Pres.
Frank B. Walls, Past Pres.
Dr. Vincent W. Masters, Past Pres.
John C. Ford, Past Pres.
LTC Raymond B. Tucker, USAF
Ian McLachlan (FOTE)
Stewart P. Evans (FOTE)
Ronald C. Nolan
MSGt. John McKay, Jr., USAF

PAST HOSTS

Frank B. Walls
John K. Hughes
Charles Edelstein
James L. Cooper
Rudy J. Cunat
Charles C. Smith
Arkey M. Huber
Larry R. Russell

1981 HOST

Joy H. Dunlap

NEWSLETTER

Volume VIII, No. 1

21 June 1979

Editor: John C. Ford

IT WAS A GREAT TIME!

you are entering
GREAT ASHFIELD AIRDROME
Home of War's Valiants

548TH 549TH
BOMB. SQDNS.

550TH 551ST
BOMB. SQDNS.

385TH BOMB. GP.

ALEX VICTORIA

With a feeling of long ago and far away, one looked at the reproduction of sign board that once announced your entry to Great Ashfield, and then looked around at some of the men who often marched past it. Nostalgia was in the air and the feeling of good times abounded. "Kansas City Kitty" never had a better time in Kansas City, Missouri, than did the members of the 385th. Despite the last minute cancellations caused by death, sickness and weather, coupled with the United Airlines strike, more than 270 persons were treated to the warmth, friendship and hospitality of the Hilton Plaza staff. From the basement storage and supply center to the Executive Suite, superior service was the name of the game. There were many new faces there, but there were many regular reunioneers who could not be present due to fate and other reasons beyond their control. They were missed!

Larry Russell, our reunion host, did an outstanding job, greatly assisted by Jerry Ink. As usual, the ladies, God bless them, pitched in to assist making the reunion a success. The same husband and wife teams of the other reunions; the Weikert's, the Walls, the Masters', the Smith's - were joined by the Russell's and others. There were three parlour rooms for movies, slide shows and for a good old Pub and exhibit room.

There were slide shows on England by John Ellis and John Ford, on Memorials in England and black and white slides on yesteryear, a trip back to Great Falls, Lewistown, Glasgow and Cut Bank, Montana, in 1977 by Paul Schulz. There were several showings of the Bi-Centennial Trip back to England in '76. The most poignant moment of the reunion for your editor and many others came

(Cont'd on Page 2)

REUNION (Continued)...

when Dr. Williston P. Bunting, former Group Flight Surgeon, came walking into the Plaza Inn on Saturday afternoon, accompanied by his grandson. Following a severe illness a few years ago, Dr. Bunting was forced to give up his practice. Since the only mailing address we had for Dr. Bunting was his office, when his mail forwarding time expired, the Postal Service reported Dr. Bunting among the missing. Just prior to the reunion, and thanks to Jerry Ink, Dr. Bunting's home address was located. On 4 May, a small group, headed by Dr. Milt Taubkins and Jerry Ink paid a visit on the good doctor. It was the following day when he made the tremendous effort and came to join the group. He watched the slide shows and the movie "Wings from the Past" and it was just the medicine any doctor would order. He spent about three hours at the Inn renewing many old acquaintances, and he made it a happy day for many of us.

Our guests for the reunion were John and Lucy Ellis of Fox Farm, Wetherden, Stowmarket, Suffolk, England. John is a churchwarden at All Saints Church in Great Ashfield, and his wife Lucy embroidered the kneeler pillow honoring the 385th Bomb Group, that is located in row D-1, central aisle, in St. James Cathedral in Bury St. Edmunds. There are more than 1000 kneelers honoring the different village churches in this Cathedral of Suffolk, and our Bomb Group is the only 8th Air Force unit so honored. The Cathedral is a must place to visit in that area.

John was the guest speaker and he covered some of the many activities he carries out on behalf of the 385th, but most of his talk covered his thoughts about the United States after seeing a great part of it, following a dream of many years - a dream also shared with him by Lucy. It was one of the high spots of the dinner-dance evening. He presented the Group, on behalf of the Parochial Church Council of Great Ashfield, with a beautiful coloured aerial photograph of the church that houses our memorial. (Pictured elsewhere in this issue.)

Bob Milligan's crew - air and ground - took top honors for attendance for the second consecutive reunion, and were presented with a "Van's Valiants" emblem created by Arkey Huber. Arkey also donated most of the awards passed out during the dinner. Runner-ups for top crews were O.V. Livingston's and Wayne Montgomery's. Milligan and Montgomery's crews were from the 549th BS, while Livingston's crew were from the 550th.

At the business breakfast on May 5th, a new group of officers were elected. James H. (Jim) Emmons was elected President. Jim served with the 548th Bomb Squadron as pilot, lead pilot and Operations Officer, and also started his second tour with the Group. Tall as a California redwood, the "Genial Giant" was also the top golfer in the outfit and is an excellent choice for this post. Warren Cerrone was a pilot, lead pilot and Operations Officer in both the 550th and the 551st Bomb Squadrons. He is the new First Vice-President. Two other Vice-Presidential offices were established by the Board of Directors. Winifred Walls was elected Vice-President for Family Affairs, and John C. Ford was elected Vice-President Editor. A well known member of the Group, former NCOIC of Operations, was elected Secretary - Charles Edelstein. John F. Pettenger, former pilot of the "Vibrant Virgin" was re-elected as "Vibrator of the Till" - more formally known as the Treasurer.

Several persons put in a plug for the next reunion site. Ed Stern, former Executive Officer of the 550th Bomb Squadron, offered to host the next reunion in Fargo, North Dakota, providing the Association would select the month of February. His warm offer was given the cold shoulder. Other hosts offered Phoenix, Arizona, Minneapolis, Minnesota, and Las Vegas, Nevada; but the one minute pitch of Joy Dunlap and John Pettenger would have softened the heart of an Okeechobee swampland mail order real estate salesman, and so our next reunion site is Fort Walton Beach with the nearby Eglin Air Force Base in Florida.

As one member wrote; "It may not have been the biggest reunion ever held, but what it lacked in size, it more than made up for in enthusiasm." It did that! ■

CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS CHANGES

ARTICLE I

NAME

The name of the Association has been changed from the "385th Bombardment Group (H) REUNION Association (abbreviation "385th BGRA"), to the 385th Bombardment Group (H) MEMORIAL Association (abbreviation "385th BGMA"). The reason for this change is to keep the name of the organization more closely related to its aims and purpose. (It will become official when approved by the IRS, in keeping with our status as a Non-Profit organization.)

BY-LAWS

ARTICLE I

Membership

LIFE MEMBERSHIPS:

A member may become a life member in one of the following ways:

- (a) Send in your check or money order for \$100.00, annotated "Life Membership".
- (b) Send in your check for \$100.00 LESS any dues paid during 1979.
- (c) Send in a partial payment of \$10.00 or more now, with additional consecutive monthly payments until the \$100.00 fee has been fully paid.

NOTE: Until approval of the "385th BGMA" is received; Life Membership checks and money orders should be made payable to the "385th BGRA" and annotated "Life Membership".

ARTICLE V

Officers

Section 3. There shall be a President, First Vice-President (Executive), Vice-President for Family Affairs, Vice-President for Information (Editor), Secretary and Treasurer.

ARTICLE VI

Finances

Section 1.

(a) Monies raised by Life Memberships shall be invested as voted by the Board of Directors, and shall be used to perpetuate the Memorial and the Association.

Section 3. The annual dues for the Association is \$5.00 and is payable on a calendar year basis, i.e., January to December of each year.

The above changes were enacted by the Board of Directors on 5 May 1979, at Kansas City, Missouri.

ACHTUNG REUNIONEERS

Dr. Vince Masters found an invitation to the Cadet Ball of the Aviation Cadet Class of 43-K in his Memoirs Album following the Reunion in Kansas City. If the person who lost this treasured souvenir will identify it by the Field and Orchestra Leader, John Ford, 7204 Easy Street, Camp Springs, MD 20031, will return it to you by return mail.

The same John Ford would sincerely appreciate it if the finder of his Presentation Edition of "Airfields of the Eighth - Then and Now" would be returned.

The book was on exhibition in the Memoirs Room at the Hilton Plaza Inn from 4 to 6 May, and it was probably picked up by mistake at the close of the reunion. The book was a gift from the publisher and is treasured by your Editor. ■

PART OF THE 385th FAMILY



(Photo courtesy of East Anglian Daily Times)

How would you feel after a lifetime of dreaming, if the opportunity came your way to visit the United States? Remember, you are living in a rather remote area in Wetherden, Suffolk, England, and the land of your dream is 3,000 miles away! John and Lucy Ellis, who had this dream, stated that it came to them as a bombshell.

It all came about through a chance remark that went like "wouldn't it be nice if we could bring them over to the States for a visit". So Charles and Peggy Smith, Earl and Ruth Cole and John and Betty Ford began planning to bring them to the States for the reunion in Kansas City. Delta Airlines had just started their overseas flights to Gatwick Airport in England when I approached their International Desk about bringing them over to Atlanta, Georgia, for the first leg of their journey. It was new to Delta to book English passengers at this end of the line, but they took over the task and I must say, they did it with style. Even the Ellis' were slightly overwhelmed by the solicitous attitude of the Delta personnel, not only at the Gatwick end, but throughout their travels on that airline.

There was a long leadtime involved and in the beginning, the Ellis' found it hard to believe, but as the months rushed by, the excitement mounted. Constable Stewart P. Evans, a FOTE member from Bury St. Edmunds offered to take them to the airport, but they had made their arrangements. Incidentally, Stewart also came over to the States as a guest of the 390th Bombardment Group, who held their reunion in Memphis, Tennessee, the same weekend we were in Kansas City.

They departed Gatwick Airport on 18 April, arriving in Atlanta that same day to be met by Peggy Smith. In the following week Charles and Peggy took them every where they desired. From Atlanta, Charles and Peggy then drove them through the mountains to Barbourville,

Kentucky, where the Smith's turned them over to the tender loving care of Earl and Ruth Cole. During the next week they were taken throughout the state, meeting many political personalities. They were accompanied by Dr. and Mrs. Harold Bushey, neighbors of the Cole's and Associate members of the 385th BGRA. Finally, they were taken overland to St. Louis, Missouri, where they stayed overnight, and they finally arrived in Kansas City to meet all the reunioneers.

Meanwhile, Bob and Nancy Valliere had contacted me and arranged for the Ellis' to visit with them at Larchmont, New York, on the weekend of 11 - 14 May. There, John was to give the invocation at the opening of the Orienta Beach and Yacht Club - which he did.

At the reunion, John and Lucy were swamped with invitations and greetings of welcome and they had the time of their life. It was at the dinner-dance that John presented the Association with the beautiful aerial view of the church at Great Ashfield which is shown in the photograph to the left of this column. It is a gift of the Parochial Church Council of All Saints Church.

They returned to Washington, D.C., with Betty and yours truly, and in the next few days we packed in all the sights and sounds of Washington, including the Smithsonian Air and Space Museum. The critical illness of Betty's brother in England forced us to place the Ellis' in the hands of my daughters, Mary and Dee. During the balance of their visit they had the opportunity to visit Yorktown (with a great seafood dinner at Nick's), Williamsburg, Jamestown and Fredericksburg, Virginia, where they witnessed the Founders Day Parade and a visit to the "Civil War Battlefield.

In New York City, at the 9:00 AM Mass on 13 May, in St. Patrick's Cathedral, which they attended with Bob and Nancy Valliere, Terrence Cardinal Cooke, Archbishop of the Diocese of New York, and the Cardinal from Ireland, marched in procession to the music of the magnificent St. Patrick's Choir. For a moment they may have thought the "Big Apple" was giving them another "blockbuster" welcome, but it turned out to be the 100 Anniversary of St. Patrick's Cathedral.

They are back home now at Fox Farm and I visited with them for about one hour before I returned to the States. They had just received their processed slides of their trip to the States and I had time to see 36 slides taken in Georgia. From what I saw, they have magic memories on film. They cannot even finish a shopping trip. Everyone stops them and wants to know about their trip, but as Lucy said; "Cinderella had her dream come true. So did we!" I asked John to write a column for this Newsletter, but the following letter seems to say it all:

Dear John:

You asked me for my impressions of America for a column in the Newsletter. Perhaps if I were William Shakespeare I could do it, but how can an ordinary man say so much in so few lines. I think I had better start with a few words that I spoke from my heart at the great Reunion in Kansas City. "I do not think that anyone, King, Queen, President or Prime Minister ever had a better welcome to the United States than that which we have received."

We were received, not with pomp and circumstance or ticker tapes, but with the genuine heart-warming friendliness of people who welcomed us into their own homes and into their daily lives. Your own daughter Dee's remarks when we left summed it up I think. "I want to kiss you goodbye, because you have become part of the family" - whoever had kinder words said on their departure? So there you are - we have been a part of the great American family in a dozen States, we have been in shops, stores, supermarkets, drug-stores, we have eaten in all kinds of places from family homes to clubs, hotels, McDonald's and more, we have visited National and State Parks under the expert guidance of friends to whom these places are nearby haunts. We have discussed our own and your politics, we have been to Churches of four different denominations and have been welcomed, not as strangers, but as friends of friends. Under your

Family Ellis... (Continued)

own guidance we have seen the heart of the United States in the centre of Washington, and with Bob and Nancy Valliere we have seen where the business and pleasure of the United States has its headquarters in New York. With Charles and Peggy Smith we have seen what was once war-torn Georgia and have driven the Great Smokey Mountains. Under the expert guidance of Earl Cole, I have tried for a bulls-eye with a six-shooter, while every morning early Peggy, Ruth, Betty and Nancy have ensured that our peculiar habit of drinking large cups of tea at sunrise has been pandered to. News of this bad habit, I must say, has gone before us.

I must say how your daughter Mary took over when you and Betty had to depart for London in a hurry, and how she and her husband Gary saw to it that our visit to Yorktown, Williamsburg and Jamestown went off without a hitch, and how your daughter Dee and her husband John took us to Fredericksburg for the remainder of that journey.

And what of the reunion? How many handshakes, how much friendliness, the conversations, the jokes, the cups of tea and the meals shared? You all must know how much this meant to us both, to be drawn in to this most important of the Association's gatherings! Need I say that, as people from afar, we did not feel strangers, neither did we feel prize exhibits, for we were among friends, and without explanation, we knew it.

These are our impressions of America - there are many more, of course. We have talked of so many sides of life in our two countries that we now feel that the division of so many miles of sea is only a physical barrier, and that the America of the Cinema and Telly (Which we rarely look at anyway) is not the true America. Our America is a second home.

(Signed) JOHN ELLIS



John Ellis gives Invocation at commissioning of Orienta Beach & Yacht Club, Mamaroneck, NY, on 12 May 1979.



Bob Valliere stands by as John Ellis is congratulated by Marty Gibbs, OB&YC Fleet Commodore.

EDITORIAL - A Killer Strikes

A couple of giants passed away this month, victims of a dreaded disease - cancer! One needs no introduction, for John Wayne was a part, not only of America but of the world. He symbolized the white hat guy, the good guy. Tough as hell and twice as good. He did all the things I always wanted to do and he did them better than my own imagination could conjure up. He was a man of convictions, and he lived up to them. If he felt he was wrong about something, he admitted it. Hated by the peacenik, tolerated by the pacifist and loved by men and women still willing to love this country of ours enough to stand up and fight for all its freedom and democracy.

John Wayne met his Maker just as he made his films. A straight arrow biting the bullet and facing whatever was to come. We all watched as this man among men let science use his body to seek some way to annihilate cancer as a destroyer of human kind. We saw the pain etch lines on his face, saw his eyes take on a soft, mellowing look and saw his jaw jut out a little more each time he had to face a crisis.

The greatest tribute paid to him was by the continuing love and consolation of his family. And let me tell you this is the only real medicine that human beings can bring to a victim of cancer.

That brings me to the story of another giant. You do not know him as I did. He was a lorry driver in England and during the war, he delivered meat to many 8th Air Force bases. His name was George Ripley. He was my wife's brother - and mine! One had to watch him sling a side of beef on his shoulder and carry it into a Mess Hall to appreciate his strength. One had to watch him on the highways and byways of England as he stopped to assist someone in need of help. He never passed by. In his later years when he was named Shop Steward in a BRS union shop, he never hesitated to call the shot if the union member was wrong. When they complained that he was the "managements man", he told them all he wanted from them was a "days work for a days pay" and if they didn't like what he believed, then vote him out. They did - and later regretted it.

He taught me about "sandlot" cricket, but I didn't enjoy loosing front teeth. He took me through the games of "shove ha' penny" and darts. He excelled in all of them. And when somebody needed help, George would help with his dukes. He raised three lovely daughters with his wife Peggy, and he was a good father and husband. His Cockney accent needed some ear tuning, but I always understood him. He was an ordinary guy with some extraordinary and wondrous ways of getting along with people and animals.

They retired him last June at age 65. In October, he was operated on, but was not told he had cancer. In January they re-opened him to remove a colostomy. At three o'clock in the morning on 11 May, Betty and I were called to London when they operated for the third time. It was a rapid carcinoma of the lower bowel and they just sewed him up after inserting a new colostomy and other tubing. And only then was his family told he had cancer. The surgeon told me George had less than two months to live and that he would not tell him because he was afraid he would give up hope.

Day after day I sat at his bedside with other family members, and tried to play the game that he was going to get better. I felt like hell. If I was going to go, I wanted to know. When I had to leave him on 6 June to return home for refueling my own medicine, I simply said, "Georgie, I'll be seeing you", and God willing, someday I will! George went to his Maker on 18 June at ten o'clock in the morning. Knowing George, he must have died a puzzled man. A giant reduced to a skeleton by the ravages of this disease.

Today I have a greater understanding of the problem of how a family must cope during the illness of a loved one. Of the sacrifices that men and women must make to help a cancer victim come to terms with himself and his affliction. There has to be a reward for them in the great beyond. I also know that a couple of my best hero types are gone. I not only loved these guys - I liked them. And that means so much more!

How about a donation to the Cancer Research Fund? There are still a lot of hero's who need your help.

WW II MEMORIALS IN EAST ANGLIA

John W. Archer

It's well over 36 years, in the summer of 1942 since the United States 8th Air Force launched its first large scale assaults on Germany.

When it was over, the 8th had lost over 8900 aircraft, and 41,500 flying men, most in their late teens and early twenties.

Today only gaunt hangers, crumbling Nissen huts and runways over-grown with weeds remain where base after base once dotted the East Anglia countryside. Most of the land is back producing corn, sugar beets and grass. Many of the old buildings have fallen down; others have been demolished. A few are in use for storage and livestock pens. The scene is desolate and saddening. But the memory of the 8th Air Force lives on. Located near many of the old airfields, a memorial, plaque, or a stained glass window in the village church reminds the visitor of a certain group of men which were stationed nearby.

At Wendling, near Dereham, an eight foot granite obelisk stands in a neatly kept plot within sight of the old airfield. Weather worn, a bronze plaque relates "To the memory of those Americans who flew from these fields and lost their lives for the sake of a free world." On each of two sides are engraved the numerical designation of the bomber squadrons and support units of the 392nd Bombardment Group (H).

Standing by the main Norwich-Ipswich road at Mendlesham, a monument dedicated to the 34th B.G. was constructed in 1945. Flowers have been placed regularly on the memorial by the local residents since that time. Each year on Armistice Sunday a U.S.A.F. colour guard takes part in the ceremonies around the memorial. At the official unveiling in 1949, Capt. Edwin S. Smith, formerly the group public relations officer said, "I have been deeply touched by this tremendous exhibition of faith and of lasting friendship forged between our two peoples."

The memorial to the men of the 385th B.G. resides in All Saints Church, Great Ashfield. The picturesque village borders the flying field from which the station took its name. When the group searched for a fitting memorial in tribute to the everlasting memory of the fallen who unselfishly gave their lives, it was thought that the ageless institution of the church would best guard the tribute.

Standing in the eastern end of the north aisle of the 14th century church the memorial consists of an altar and reredos, with side panels, all richly hand carved and traceried in solid oak. The design was the work of H. Munro Cautley, F.S.A., one of Britain's foremost authorities on church architecture. It stands on random squared stone paving, and makes a side chapel six feet in width and eighteen feet in length. An flag is nearby. A memorial plaque is located in the churchyard. The stone was quarried in Cornwall and the bronze plaque was cast and fettered in Bury St. Edmunds. They were joined and brought to Great Ashfield and erected in front of group headquarters. It was dedicated on Memorial Day 1944 with General LeMay present at unveiling. At the end of hostilities the stone was transplanted to the churchyard for a permanent memorial to those who gave up their lives.

A few miles further south in Lavenham a commemorative plaque was set up in the wall in the market square during a reunion of the 487th B.G. in 1970. During the dedication ceremonies, the Salvation Army Band, which had played farewell to the group when they left Lavenham in 1945, struck up "America."

The 96th B.G. were stationed at Snetterton Heath in Norfolk and there is a fine memorial to the group's dead. In the 14th century church at Quidenham, close by the old base, a stained glass window was consecrated in 1944. The window depicts a flyer being received by Christ. The four squadron insignias are also illustrated.

The town hall at Sudbury has a memorial plaque embedded in the wall dedicated to the men of the 486th

B.G. who flew from the airfield located on the hill overlooking the town.



M/Sgt C. K. Browning kneels at the 385th BG Memorial plaque in churchyard at Great Ashfield shortly before his death in 1974.

In the village of Flixton, where the 446th B.G. were stationed, three memorials of a different kind are to be found. The gates to the entrance of the church were bought and erected by the men of the group before they departed in 1945. A chicken processing plant placed a tablet in their canteen in honour of the men lost flying from the airfield. A notice board made from ancient oak, has recently been placed in the primary school in honour of a former airman who had a close relationship with the children. He had planned a get-together with the children a few years ago. Enroute to Flixton, he suffered a heart attack and died in a Chicago hospital. But the memory of Jimmy Seery lives on.

Personal and other tragic events are recorded in many ways, not necessarily relating to the various groups' activities while flying over enemy territory. In grateful tribute to a man and an ideal, a bronze plaque, bought by the aerial gunners of the 389th B.G., was erected in Wymondham United Reformed Church to the late Protestant chaplain at Hethel, Captain Earl O. Widen. Captain Widen was more than a chaplain to the men of the 389th. When he was informed the parishoners of the local town church were without a minister due to the untimely death of their own, he offered to minister to the parishoners in his own time. Each Sunday after that he was at the church in the capacity of their very own minister. Directly after D-Day, Captain Widen unhesitatingly continued his ministrations in the little church while being overburdened with the added tension created by the momentous military events. The strain proved too much and he died. His was not only a loss to the 389th, the "small" folks in the town felt it very deeply.

Spontaneously, a plan was agreed upon where it was decided members of the group would place a plaque in his memory in the church. But the members of the congregation wanted to do something as well. They too collected money to erect a plaque in memory of Earl O. Widen. Only this plaque was sent to his country, to his very church and parish - the Bethlehem Baptist Church in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

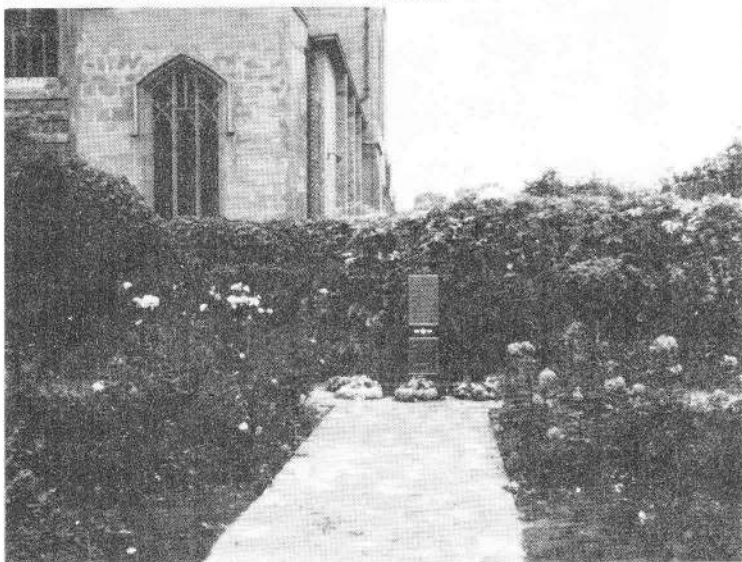
The platitudes expounded by world leaders may or may not be the answer to peace on Earth, but the sincerity and deep feeling of expression shown on that unique occasion certainly contain in themselves the necessary attributes of man living with fellow man.

A young airman stationed at Lavenham spent most of his off duty time bicycling around the beautiful countryside. He decided to write a book on his adventures. "Suffolk Summer", by John T. Appleby, was published in 1948. The proceeds from the book were given towards the upkeep of a memorial garden

(Cont'd page 6)

Memorials (Continued)

in the Abbey grounds at Bury St. Edmunds. It was in this garden that the 94th B.G. dedicated a memorial to their fallen members last October.



The 94th Bomb Group Memorial in the Appleby Rose Garden, the Abbey grounds in Bury St. Edmunds.

On November 21st, 1944, two B-24's collided over the village of Carleton Rode in South Norfolk while forming up for a mission. Seventeen men lost their lives that morning. An oak memorial bearing the record of that tragic event is in the village church.

A memorial plaque was erected in November 1945, in Heigham Street in Norwich to the crew of a B-24 of the 753rd B.S., 458th B.G., who crash landed their plane deliberately in a field rather than endanger the lives of residents in a large group of houses in their path.

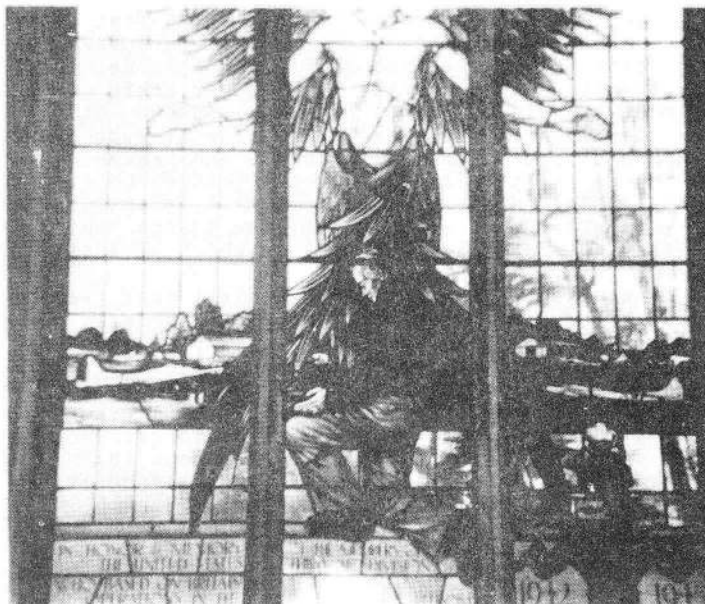
The 2nd Air Division Memorial Room in Norwich Central Library is certainly a "living memory" of the 6,032 men who were lost flying in combat from the airfield surrounding that ancient city. Early in 1945, before hostilities had ceased in Europe, the men of the 2nd Air Division began giving thought to establishing a memorial in East Anglia dedicated to their fallen comrades they would shortly be leaving behind. Many ideas were advanced concerning the form such a memorial should take. Some wished to restore a bombed church, but it was reluctantly decided that such a project could not commemorate men of all creeds or men of none. The proposed new Central Library in Norwich seemed most likely to provide the setting for what was destined to become a unique memorial. The intensive preparations during the early months of 1963 towards the completion of the Memorial included the shipment of stone from every State in the Union to form the collection in the fountain which stands in the forecourt adjacent to the library.

Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother, expressed great delight with the setting on her official visit to the new Norwich Central Library on January 19th, 1963. A copy of the late President Kennedy's message is on permanent display, with a nearby map of the location of war time bases. In the Library is a bound copy of the individual histories of the Bomb Groups. The original 8th Air Force flag is placed near the Roll of Honour, on a pedestal provided by the U.S.A.F. Sculthorpe.

The American Military Cemetery at Madingly, near Cambridge, contains the graves of 3,811 military dead. On the South Wall of the Missing are listed the names of 5,125 men - those who have no known graves. A bronze tablet on the wall of the Visitor's Building was presented by the people of the towns of Cheshunt and Waltham Cross in memory of an American bomber crew who sacrificed themselves to avoid abandoning their disabled aircraft over their homes. One grave contains two bodies and another contains three. They could not be identified separately but their names are on bronze tablets over the graves. There are 24 "Unknowns" buried in this land donated by Cambridge University.

The U.S.A.A.F. 8th Air Force has long ago left the fields of East Anglia. There are many memorials to be found not mentioned here. They are a constant reminder of a price paid for freedom. The men who flew from the many local airfields will always be remembered.

(This article by John W. Archer was printed with his permission. John is an Associate Member of the 385th and many other 8th Air Force Bomb Groups, and has provided the Editor with many articles and photographs. He is an ardent air historian and resides in Bungay, Suffolk, England).



Memorial window in Weldon Church, close to the 401st Bombardment Group Base.



The 457th Bombardment Group Memorial in Conington Churchyard near Petersboro. This Group operated out of Glatton(Conington) Airfield. A pilot from this Group, Lt. Col. William F. Smith, was the pilot of the B-25 aircraft that flew into the 79th floor of the Empire State Building on July 28, 1945.

(Cont'd page 7)

Memorials (Continued)



The 487th Bomb Group's Memorial in the Market Square, Lavenham, Suffolk, England.



The author, John Archer, stands at the Anglo-American Memorial at Saffron Walden, near Cambridge.

CONGRATULATIONS, DOLLIE!

Charlie Wadsworth's column "HUSH PUPPIES", featured a story entitled "BROWNING FAMILY IN THE SPOTLIGHT THIS WEEK". The column appeared in the ORLANDO STAR SENTINEL issue of 5 June 1979. This is the story:

The Browning family comes front and center on the stage of life this week and it is one of the most heart-warming spotlights you will see. Dollie Browning is the star and the heroine. For more than six years, her son Tom, was a prisoner of war in Hanoi during the Vietnam war. Then Tom returned home to meet a son he had never seen. Just months later, that homecoming was dampened by the death of Tom's father, C.K. Browning, who had been a prisoner of war during World War II. Dollie Browning could have settled for that turn in life and just sat back for the rest of her time. But no. This quiet woman of great dignity is not a sit-downer. Neither are other members of her family.

Friday (Jun 8) she will graduate from the University of Central Florida with a degree in social work. She will return to graduate school to study sculpturing and will further her artistic ability. Her son Tom, an Air Force Lieutenant Colonel and a fighter pilot, will be home to see his mother win her degree. The Browning daughter also graduates from college this week, at Florida State University. The youngster of the family, Bobby, will have two memorable occasions. He will be awarded his Eagle honor in Boy Scouting Wednesday, and will graduate from Winter Park High School Friday.

Unfortunately, mother won't be able to see her son's ceremony and the son won't see his mother receive her degree. UCF graduation exercises have been scheduled for 8 a.m. Friday and Winter Park at 8:30 a.m. But it will be a happy and memorable day for a fine, warm family.

(See photograph of M/Sgt Browning on page 5)

ROSTER...

Following is a list of corrections, change of address and newly found members. It is suggested that a zerox copy be made of the changes and inserted in the roster of March 1979.

LEFT OUT OF ROSTER:

Powell, William 35 Hinckley Circle Bella Vista, AR 72712	Klement, Thomas 29 St Andrews Dr Huntington, NY 11743
--	---

CORRECTIONS:

Stern, Edward R. to Edward	Kneeland, Paul M. 15 Dix Street Worcester, MA 01609
----------------------------	---

Boble, Barney J. to:	Lages, Albert B. 2005 Wilshire Ct Somerville, NJ 08876
----------------------	--

Coble, Barney J. 2404 Mobley Trail Greensboro, NC 27407	Lee, W. Pruitt Rt #6, Box 24 Louisville, MS 39339
---	---

CHANGE OF ADDRESS:

Wilson, Robert W. 120 Tanglewood Dr Hampton, VA 23666	Pangle, Duane 639 Winslow Dr Yuba City, CA 95991
---	--

LEFT OUT LAST NEWSLETTER:

Vance, Rev. James H. 1916 Ridgeway Dr Lewiston, ID 83501	Ranck, Fred H. 31 E Ross St Lancaster, PA 17602
--	---

	Ramsey, Merle M. 1710 Normandy Rd Lexington, KY 40504
--	---

NEWLY FOUND MEMBERS:

Berg, Glen 243 So Shore Dr Forrest Lake, MN 55025	Richardson, John A. 1517 Capitol Way, #605 Olympia, WA 98501
---	--

Brownlee, Chester 5450 Olmenda Ave Atascadero, CA 93422	Severance, Bacon 883 Jay St Elgin, IL 60120
---	---

Daly, D. G. c/o GSC, Box 404 Calabasas, CA 91302	Swedlund, Len 9000 Riley Lake Rd Eden Prairie, MN 55344
--	---

Dewey, Donald H. 1213 Ogden St, Box 28 Jasper, MI 49248	Wolever, Clement J. 1120 66th Ave., NE Puyallup, WA 98371
---	---

Harris, Oliver Y. Bene, VA 23018	Zimmerman, Kermit H. 110 Gerhart Ave Ephrata, WA 17522
-------------------------------------	--

John, Wilmer A. RD #4 Boyertown, PA 19512	RETURNED MAIL: Jacobson, Capt. G.M. c/o PanAm World Airways JFK International Arpt Jamaica, NY 11430
---	--

Johnson, Frederick Jr. 2716 Buford Dr Williamsport, MD 21795	
--	--

Kastenholz, J. H. 7101 No 40th St Milwaukee, WI 53209	
---	--

Obituaries...

ISAACSON, ALBERT	Deceased	30 April 1977
------------------	----------	---------------

Word was just received from Mrs. Isaacson, that Albert died of a heart attack on the date above. He will be remembered in our thoughts and prayers.

HERZOG, FLORIAN B.	Deceased	15 May 1979
--------------------	----------	-------------

Florian was an associate member of the 385th, but had been a member of the 323rd Squadron of the 91st Bombardment Group. He and his wife, Lorayne traveled with our group when we returned to England in 1976 and it was on that visit that we came to know him. Shortly after that trip he was stricken with leukemia, from which he died. He will be missed.

(See the Editorial on Cancer on another page).



Jim Hess, George Hruska, Emmett Harter



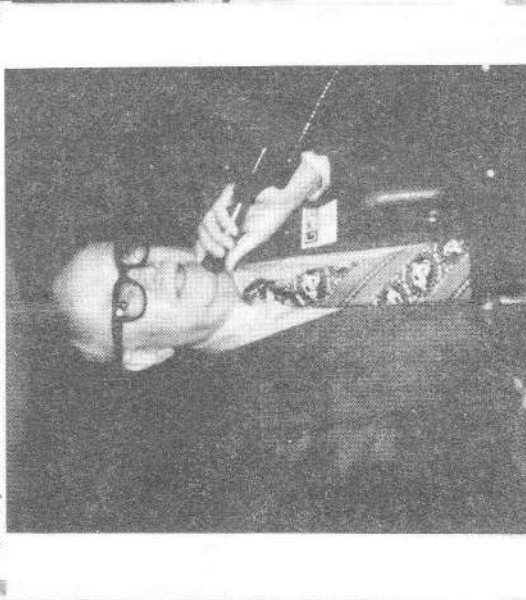
L to R: Eunice Zeigler, Don and Dallas Hale, and Jim Hess.



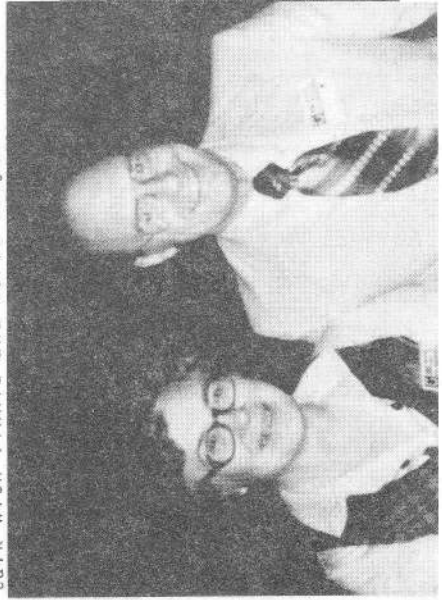
Rose and Dave Frammer. A-2 jacket "Rum Dum"



Diane Varady and Helen Edelstein, standing, talk with Vinnie and Merle Relyea.



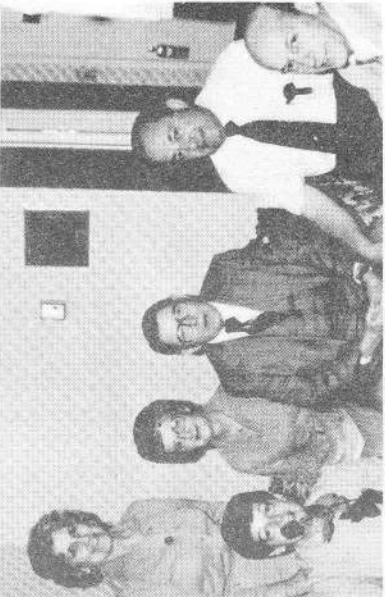
Retiring President John Ford.



Eunice and Wayne Zeigler



Charles Smith, Mary Weikert, Peggy Smith and Ruel Weikert, First President of 385th.



L to R: Esther Schneider, Betty Wright, Elaine and Bob Yates, Joe Schneider and Lloyd Wright. "Leading Lady" was their a/c.



Esther Schneider, standing, talks with Ed and Mildred Grabowski, left, and Bernice and Clarence Cragoe, Right.

Photo credits: Don H... and Joe Schneider

Police Blotter...

Stewart P. Evans, Police Constable in Bury St. Edmunds and one of the originators of FOTE, provided the Editor with the following excerpts of crash reports. These are but a few of the crash reports that will be included in a forthcoming book.

ABBOTS HALL 16 September 1943
RICKINGHALL SUPERIOR Thursday, 2200 Hrs
SUFFOLK
Map Ref. 508 914

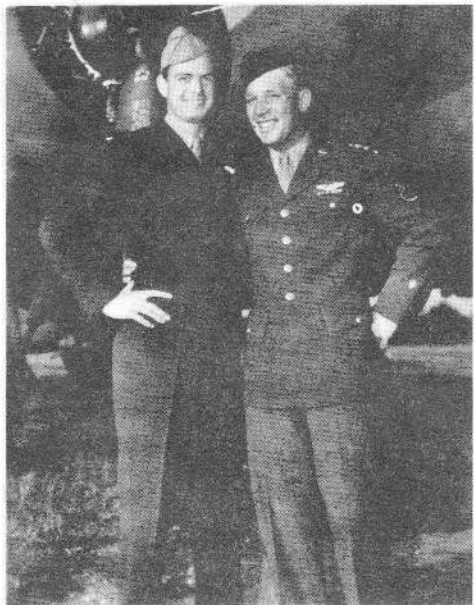
B-17F 42-30601
385th Bomb Group (H) 550th Bomb Squadron
SAL BD 385th Bomb Group (H) B-17F 42-30601 19093

Pilot: 1st Lt. John D. Schley Jr.
co-pilot 2nd Lt. John T. Baum
Navigator 2nd Lt. Earl R. Bates
Bombardier: 2nd Lt. John F. Ellingsen
Radio Ops-Gun. T/Sgt. John B. Egbert
TTE-Gunner T/Sgt. Walter J. Roth
BT-Gunner S/Sgt. Willard C. White
RW-Gunner S/Sgt. Harold A. Waldner
LW-Gunner S/Sgt. Chester E. Truax
Tail Gunner S/Sgt. Clyde G. Gingerich

At 2200 hours a B-17 Flying Fortress crashed and caught fire on a field of cattle beet at Abbotts Hall, Rickingham Superior, which is own by Frederick Marshall Reynolds of the same address. National Fire Service (NFS) from Botesdale, Diss, Stowmarket and Beccles arrived. At about 2300 the RAF Fire Service from Honington aerodrome arrived and the flames were subdued. During the night the charred bodies of four American airmen were found among the wreckage.

At about 0800 Friday 17th September 1943, I visited a field of growing turnips on the property of Frederick Barker, Falcon's Hall, Rickingham, and there saw parts of an American Fortress scattered about. One piece was part of the port wing tip 10 feet long. Various smaller parts were scattered about the field, map reference 495 914. Inquiries revealed this crashed plane was no. 601 belonging to 385th Bomb Group-550th Bomb Squadron, USAAF, stationed at Great Ashfield. (Signed by Constable, East Suffolk Police)

"We went on what was perhaps our longest mission to Cognac, Bordeaux. On the return trip, just three minutes before he was to have landed at Great Ashfield, Lt. Jack Schley bumped into another B-17 from some other station and he and his entire crew were killed." (Excerpt from 385th BG Records).



Lt. Schley and S/Sgt Gingerich

CAPEL ST. ANDREW
WOODBIDGE
Map Ref: 816 673

16TH JULY 1944
SUNDAY, 1000 HRS

B17G 42-39912
385TH BOMB GROUP (H) 549TH BOMB SQUADRON
SAL BD 1 MOBILE RR SQ B17G 42-39912 19074

Pilot: 2nd Lt. Lucien C. Courcelle
C.P.: 2nd Lt. Frank R. Bullen
Nav.: 2nd Lt. Hubert J. Bivins
Bomb.: 2nd Lt. Charles E. Wynn
Rad Op G: S/Sgt Roland N. Leider
T.T.G.: S/Sgt Delbert L. Hamilton
B.T.G.: Sgt Paul E. Cusson
RWG: Sgt Robert P. Bozina
LWG: Sgt Carl S. Bavuso
TG: Cpl Herbert Berensowsky

A Fortress crashed in the forest at Capel St. Andrew. The plane was marked with a large G on tail and the number 239912 over V. The plane was piloted by 2nd Lt. Courcelle; it belonged to the 549th Squadron. 385th Bomb Group, Home Station Great Ashfield. The plane was badly damaged but the crew was unhurt. The plane crashed about 1200 yards east of the runway at Woodbridge Airfield and the R.A.F. provided a guard. (Filed by East Anglia Police)

17/7/44 1000 Hrs. B-17G 42-39912, Lt. L. Courcelle (385th B.G.). A/C homed on VHF with escort, port inner and starboard outer u/s. Starboard inner engine also went dead on approach and the aircraft crashed into the trees east of the undershoot. All crew escaped injury. (Woodbridge Control Tower Log)

DUES....

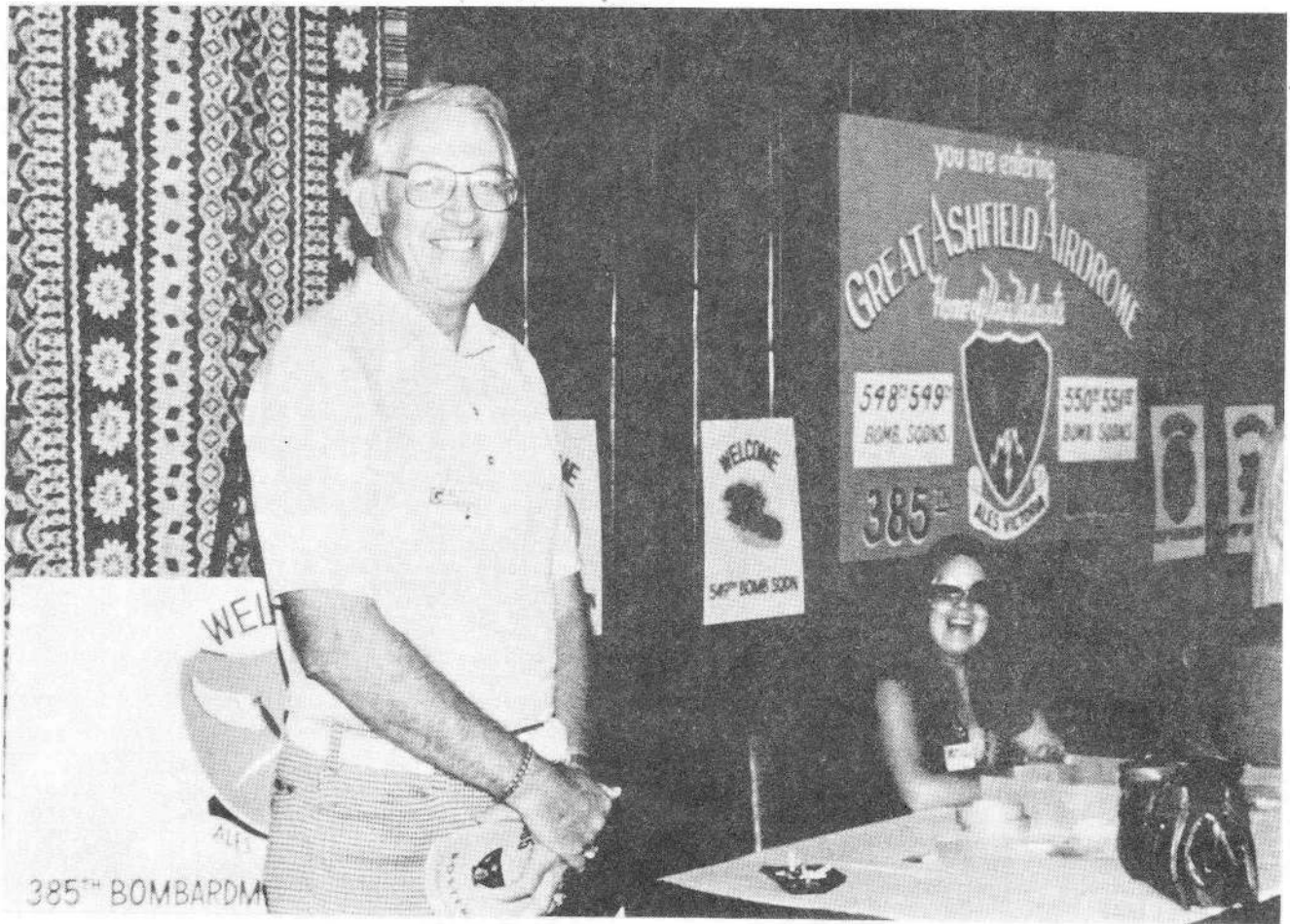
A treasurer review indicates a substantial fall-off in payment of dues over last year. For the benefit of those who may have forgotten, the dues are \$5.00 per year (see story on another page about life memberships). Dues are payable on a calendar year basis - that is, from January to December each year. If you have not paid your dues, will you please do so as soon as possible, making checks payable to the "385th BGRA" and mailing them to our Treasurer, John F. Pettemger, 117 Home Park Road, Venice, FL 33595. We could also use additional donations. Dues and contributions are tax deductible. ■

Late Issue

This issue of Newsletter should have been issued immediately following the Reunion, but due to the critical illness of a family member in England, the Editor and his wife were summoned overseas and remained there for almost a month. The next issue is scheduled for August. ■

B-17 Stamp

"Shoo Shoo Baby" was a well used tag for many B-17G's, but the "Baby" from the 8th AF's 401st Bomb Squadron, 91st Bombardment Group (H) went over the target at Posen, Poland, on 3 engines, then lost another, and finally had to set down with only one fan turning in Sweden. Today she is being rebuilt by members of the Air Force Reserve belonging to the 512th Military Airlift Wing in Dover, Delaware, under the watchful eyes of Mike Leister III. Mike has divided the work into 18 areas and has 18 area crew chiefs watching over each area. It will be more than two years work, for the 40 men who work on it regularly, to finish the job. It will then be displayed at Dover for about a year and after that it goes to the USAF Museum in Dayton. Joe Pierce, Postmaster at Milford, DE, and a former B-17 pilot, has proposed to the Postal Service that a commemorative B-17 stamp be issued. Support him in this effort by writing to: U.S. Postal Service, Citizens Stamp Advisory Committee, Washington, D.C. 20260. Write now! ■



James H. (Jim) Emmons is the new President for the next two years. He is standing near the Seventh Reunion Registration desk in Kansas City. Judy Masters was presiding.

385TH B GRA

REGISTERED ADDRESS

John C. Ford, Editor
7204 Easy Street
Camp Springs, MD 20031

THIRD CLASS MAIL

Weikert, Ruel G.
6306 Green Leaves Road
Indianapolis, IN 46220



324

324

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED