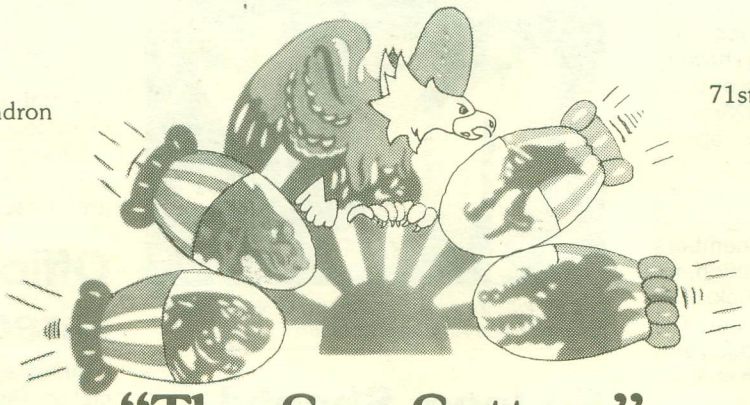
H.Q. Squadron

823rd Squadron

71st Squadron



405th Squadron

822nd Squadron

"The Sun Setters"

38th BOMB GROUP (WWII) ASSOCIATION SEPTEMBER, 1987

The President's Memo:

Harry E. Terrell, President

My first obligation in this new publication is to extend a heartfelt and healthy *thank you* to all who assisted in the staging of Reunion '86, and to those who attended. I sincerely appreciated the letters of encouragement and and the post-reunion letters of congratuations. In all candor, I must admit staging a reunion can, at times, be a study in irritation and frustration—but, believe me, when you see all your buddies (and all of a sudden, even the fellows you have never met before are your buddies), any trials you may have fade into insignificance, and you get a warm glow that is indescribable. It is simply a great and rewarding experience. And as a past Reunion Chairman, I can really appreciate Al 'Suedy" Suedeman taking the job on for the 1988 reunion, and urge that any of you who can pitch in and help with the job, volunteer to Suedy.

Buddies contacting buddies to encourage attendance at the reunion is what makes the operation successful. '88 Chairman Suedy suggests we all look up our old combat photos, pick out the guys we know, and drop them a note—maybe include a quick-print copy of the photo circling the addressee—encouraging them to come to Reunion '88. Don't know their address? Any retiree, regular or reserve, can access the AF Locator. Those of you who got out right after the war can ask a retiree friend to send your letter of inquiry in under his name. I've used it as a reserve retiree and Jim Gilliam has used it as a regular retiree. It works most of the time, and can give you a great opportunity to renew friendships from bygone days.

Those who've never used the Locator service may be interested in the procedure:

You write a letter to the person you are trying to locate, seal it in an envelope, put his name on the envelope (the USAF will fill in the address), along with your return address and postage. On a separate sheet of paper write his name and whatever you may know of his rank, serial number, home or recent address, etc. On another sheet of paper put down your name, rank, serial number and address. Put all of these into another envelope and mail it to:

HQ AFMPC/MPCD003
Randolph AFB, TX 78150

As a non-retiree, you would need that last sheet to carry the name, rank, serial number and address of a retiree, regular or reserve.

Also, a vote of thanks to Lew Pavel for his great support and expertise in getting the Constitution and Bylaws worked up, consulting with Suedy in Nashivlle on staging the reunion, and for taking on the important task of putting out the 38th Newsletter. Incidentally, Lew just happened to stumble across the 1986 reunion announcement in *Air Force* magazine, attended for the first time in Anaheim, and has been involved ever since—which just goes to show, we need everyone's help in getting the word out about the 38th BG Reunion in '88.

A message from the Chairman, Reunion '88

"Music City "U.S.A., September 28 thru October 1, 1988.

The committee has selected the Marriott Hotel, located in the vicinity of the airport and Opryland, U.S.A.

Incidentally, the Marriott Hotels and Resorts were named "the best overall hotel system in the United States" by *Business Travel News*, and they specialize in, or cater to, military reunions! We guarantee a great time for all, and a large selection of things to do to suit your interests.

Among the things to see and visit in Nashville are: downtown Nashville (15 minutes from the hotel); The Hermitage, home of President Andrew Jackson (20 min.); Percy Priest Lake, for boating and fishing (10 min.); and R.V. camps (15 min.).

Tours of the Country Music Stars' homes and spending sprees at shopping malls are other activities you will find enjoyable. There are restaurants of all types within 10 to 15 minutes' driving time from the hotel, and a host of other things to do and see.

Start making plans now to attend, and enjoy the comaraderie of your friends while we show you that good 'ole "southern hospitality" in Nashville. Be sure to contact your buddies so they can also join us.

For the '88 Reunion Committee,
Al "Suedy" Suedekum.

PRESIDENT'S NOTE: From personal experience, I know Suedy will welcome any volunteer help he can get before and during the Reunion. Why not get in touch and offer a hand to Suedy and his hard-working committee of Ken Houston, Dorothy Jackson, Tom King and Leslie Mondelli?

Constitution and Bylaws enclosed

At the 1986 Anaheim convention, the membership voted to perpetuate the organization through incorporation. To accomplish that end, a Constitution and Bylaws Committee has spent the past several months in writing, reviewing, rewriting and re-reviewing, and finalizing. The final result is enclosed for review and approval by members. Please vote your conviction and return to President Terry. On member approval, the process of incorporating can proceed. If inclined to vote against the C&B, please pass along your reasons and suggestions for revision to the president.

This mailing is being addressed to all ex-group members, but only current Association members may vote. Any non-member can become eligible simply by enclosing dues with their vote, along with the membership blank in this publication.

IMPORTANT PLEASE NOTE IMPORTANT

The ballot for the Constitution and

See "Constitution," next page.

Kudos to the 823rd

At the Anaheim convention, historian Larry Hickey urged that the Association commit itself to a $2,500 painting showing a B-25 bomber-strafer in action, to be used in his forthcoming book. The 823rd accepted the challenge, and now reports that 10 members have committed $250 each to underwrite the painting. "The Sunsetters" extends its heartiest congratulations, and thanks, on behalf of all members of the 38th Bomb Group Association, to: Zane Corbin, Jim Corn, John Irick, Roy Gibson, Jim Hailey, Leo Herlacher, Bill Lupardus, Bob Hunter, Sid Sampson and Vice President John Trease, who chaired the effort.

Extra kudos to Bob Hunter, who has been meeting with the wheels at the Air Force Museum at Wright Field in Dayton, Ohio, in an effort to gain permanent prime exhibit space in that very popular tourist attraction. No final decision as yet, but Bob keeps plugging away at it.

Incidentally, you, too, can assist Larry Hickey in turning out the best Military Unit History yet. Send him your experiences, particularly if you have the names of others involved, photographs, anything. The more material he has, the better job he can do. Send your material to:

Larry Hickey
International Research
and Publishing
P.O. Box 3334 High Mar Station
Boulder, CO 80307

38th B.G. membership cards in offing

President Terry Terrell assures "The Sunsetters" that membership cards are in the works and should be available for distribution before year's end.

405th leads in Life Memberships

The 405th has jumped into a substantial lead in life membership derby with 10 members. Those demonstrating their faith in the longevity of the new association (as well as in themselves) are:

405th:
Amos, J.D.
Campbell, D.
Daugherty, J.
Henderson, R.
Houston, L.L.
Lee, L.A.
Mazzara, S.
Pavel, L.
Smith, C.S.
Terrell, H.E.

71st:
Blair, R.W.
Craig, J.W.
Sankey, D.

823rd:
Darbonne, H.
Jones, W.
Trease, J.L.

822nd:
Boria, H.
Kellogg, W.

Hdq.:
Gavin, E.M.

If you have been considering life membership, now is the time to jump in. The new Constitution and Bylaws provide that the current biennial dues shall prevail unless changed by the membership—so they can go up at any reunion—but a life membership paid is a membership for life!

Left to right: Terry Terrell, Shanty O'Neill and Ed Maurer, 1986 Anaheim Reunion.

So long, Shanty!

"Shanty" O'Neill attended his last reunion of the 38th Bomb Group in Anaheim, Oct. 2-5, 1986. On November 14 Shanty lost his final battle to pneumonia at age 75.

Col. Brian O'Neill graduated from flying school at Kelly Field, Tex., in 1939, and in December 1941, was transferred from the 18th Reconnaissance Squadron at Langley Field, Virginia, to the 40th Bomb Squadron, 22nd Bomb Group in Australia.

In October 1942, he was assigned command of the 38th Bomb Group in New Guinea and flew 33 combat missions in 2½ years as a command pilot. He was credited as one of the initiators of skip bombing, which proved so effective in the two-day battle of the Bismark Sea that it subsequently became a most effective weapon against enemy shipping and ground forces. On November 2, 1943, the 38th Bomb Group joined in the devastating 5th Air Force strike at Rabaul Harbor, the utilization of bomber-strafers against that target taking the enemy completely by surprise. He was awarded the DFC during his service with the 38th, as well as being honored by his troops with regular renditions of "The 38th Bomb Group Lament," which enjoyed a reprise (with appropriate modifications) at the 1986 reunion.

Shanty closed out his active duty service at Hamilton Air Force Base, California, in July 1961, after duty tours at Bolling Field, D.C.; Peterson Field, Colorado; Shaw AFB, South Carolina; Hamilton AFB; Maxwell AFB, Alabama; 12th Air Force Headquarters, Landsberg, Germany; Toul Rosiere AB, France; Spangdahlem AB, Germany; Syracuse AFB, New York; and Norton AFB, California.

He took up residence in Deal, New Jersey, and spent his last 25 years in semi-retirement, working in the brokerage and financing fields.

Shanty was interred with full military honors at Arlington National Cemetery November 20. He is survived by his wife, Marion, now of Monmouth Beach, New Jersey, and son, Tom, of New York City.

Farewell to Edward Maurer

Edward J. Maurer, Jr., who saw service as 405th Squadron Commander, and was one of those who attended the 1986 Anaheim Reunion, passed away May 13, 1987. He was buried with full military honors in Austin, Texas, where he had pursued his architectural career.

Officers and Directors named

Officers of the 38th Bomb Group Association Association elected at the reunion business session in Anaheim were:

President: Harry Terrell
20475 Upper Bay Dr.
Santa Anna Hts., California

Vice Pres.: John Trease
306 Clay
Broken Bow, Oklahoma

Sec.-Treas.: James Gilliam
25475 Jaclyn
Moreno Valley, California

With approval of the new Constitution and Bylaws, each Squadron will elect its own representative to serve on the Board of Directors in the future. In the interim, five squadron representatives were named by the elected officers to serve until the 1988 reunion:

71st Rep.: Alonzo Rushing
1224 Berwick Trail
Madison, Tennessee

405th Rep.: Lew Pavel
P.O. Box 915204
Longwood, Florida

822nd Rep.: Tom King
100 Baltusrol Rd.
Franklin, Tennessee

823rd Rep.: Lawton Howell
133 Ole Hickory Tr.
Carolton, Georgia

Hdqs. Rep.: Terry Terrell
20475 Upper Bay Dr.
Santa Ana, California

Any member who would like to join in the future guidance of the Association should utilize the Membership Data Form elsewhere in this newsletter to indicate willingness to serve. The only necessary qualifications are enthusiasm and a desire to see the organization grow!

Constitution, *Continued from Cover.*

Bylaws is included in the Membership Data Form herein. Members need only fill in their name, address and squadron, and mark the ballot to vote—but we urge you to also review the six boxes at the bottom of the form and get involved in the association's activities.

MOST OF ALL, WE NEED YOUR VOTE!!

Editor's Comments:

Welcome to the first edition of the official organ of the 38th Bomb Group (WW II) Association—"The Sunsetters"—like the name? If so, drop President Terry or me a line. If you don't care for it, the publications committee will welcome your suggestions mailed to:

Harry E. Terrell, Pres.
38th Bomb Group (WWII) Ass'n.
20475 Upper Bay Drive
Santa Ana Hts., CA 92707

E. Lew Pavel, Editor
38th Bomb Group (WWII) Ass'n.
P.O. Box 91524
Longwood, FL 32779

Might even be a prize in it should the officers decide to accept your suggestion.

When President Terry asked me to serve as editor/publisher, it was with some trepidation that I agreed. An editor can often be charged with favortism, partisanship or bias, but very seldom with getting too much assistance from the members.

Assistance, my friends, is the name of the game. We can't write about what your squadron is doing unless someone tells us about it!

The usual method is to funnel everything through a squadron reporter, *but*, "The Sunsetters" (or whatever) will be happy to accept personal vignettes, action photos, a memorable squadron event or action, or even a "Letter to the Editor." If you are concerned about your writing ability, send it along anyway. We're not bashful—we'll be happy to edit material on request.

Rabaul Harbor, New Britain —
November 2, 1943

A milestone in the military careers of both Shanty O'Neill and flight leader Ed Maurer, the Rabaul raid was lauded as "undoubtedly one of the most effective strikes ever planned and executed in this theater to date," in the official account. In 12 minutes it resulted in 114.572 tons of enemy shipping destroyed or damaged, 69 enemy aircraft destroyed in combat, and 16 enemy aircraft destroyed on the ground.

"Never in the long history of warfare has so much destructiveness been wrought upon the forces of a belligerent nation so swiftly and at such little cost to the victor."

The losses: 9 American bombers, 10 American fighters, 28 bomber crew personnel missing in action, 7 bomber crew personnel killed in action, 8 fighter personnel missing in action.

"I consider this one of the major victories of the Pacific War." Excerpt from report of Commanding General, Advanced Echelon, Fifth Air Force, to Commanding General, Fifth Air Force, sent the night of November 2, 1943. Maurer received the Silver Star for gallantry in action during this effort, shepherding damaged aircraft to the emergency strip on Kiriwina Island, although carrying a 20 mm shell in his left wing tank.

Where are they all now?

Curiosity grabbed hold of your editor when President Terry and Secretary Jim sent him the most recent list of ex-38th Bomb Group men and their current addresses—all 718 of them. His first impression was that an awful lot of them were living in Pennsylvania, a rather unlikely conclusion, in view of the growing age level and the constant comments about California and Texas and Florida being the places where military retirees like to settle down.

So he started to count. Sure enough! Pennsylvania lead all the states, with 25 more "Sunsetters" than the next most popular area. One thing led to another, and before the evening was over the list had been broken down by state:

PA-90	MO-16	KS-8	MT-3
CA-65	WI-16	MS-8	ME-2
FL-53	AZ-15	NM-8	WY-2
TX-49	IL-14	VA-8	DE-1
NY-40	MD-13	NV-7	HI-1
NJ-28	MN-12	CT-5	ID-1
CO-27	AL-11	IN-5	ND-1
OH-26	LA-11	NE-5	SD-1
TN-22	MI-11	IA-4	DC-1
MA-18	OK-11	KY-4	PU1
NC-18	OR-10	NH-4	AK-0
GA-17	SC-10	UT-4	RI-0
WA-17	AR- 9	WV-4	VE-0

(AK=Alaska HI=Hawaii PU=Papua

Have any old group buddies you may not believe are listed? Send the names along and we'll check them out.

'In Ever-Honored Memory'

It is indeed fitting that the 38th Bomb Group Association honor its departed brothers. If the following list is incomplete, it is simply because of a lack of information. If the reader is aware of an omission, please notify the Association secretary or the editor in order that the list may be updated.

Kenneth G. Allison 405th
Curtis Anderson ..... HQ
Kenneth Balmer 405th
Walter G. Beck, Jr. 71st
John F. Beckert ..... HQ
Arthur W. Brown 405th
William Burgess, Jr. 405th
John E. Bush ..... HQ
John F. Campbel
Edward D. Clegg 71st
James S. Clendenin 822nd
John F. Collins 405th
Thomas Egan 71st
Wallace R. Foster 71st
William M. Gay 405th
James A. Geyer
William L. "Hoot" Gibbons 405th
Jesse M. Gillette 822nd
Richard H. Hastings 71st
Edward F. Hawkins
John M. "Hank" Henry 405th
John Holcomb 71st
Howard N. Jackson 822nd
James Kannette 405th
Andrew Kodash 71st
Rudolph A. Kreuger ..... HQ
Frank M. Lee 822nd
A. Kenneth Maxwell 70th
Philip Maturi 405th
Edward J. Maurer, Jr. 405th
Robert McCutcheon 71st
Burton Moncrief
Lorne H. Nelles 71st
Floyd P. Oliver 71st
Brian "Shanty" O'Neill ..... HQ
Stanley B. Powell 71st
Emil Randazzo 405th
Marion Reeder 71st
Richard E. Reiner 71st
Joe Rose 405th
Gilbert Salcedo 823rd
Carl J. Sanders 71st
_____ Schultz 405th
Wilber Schwartz 71st
Francis Sieck 71st
Harold Spivey 71st
Tony Suszko 405th
Walte J. Tait 823rd
Elba Thompson 71st
_____ Toallson 71st
Ralph Towne 71st
Jack T. Tweed 71st
Vernon Vinson 71st
Donald D. White 823rd
Robert O. White 405th
Lester G. Witmer 71st
Luke Wright 71st
Tony J. Zamostny 71st

. . . and all those buddies who will be "forever young" in our memories,

"HAIL AND FAREWELL."

38th BOMB GROUP ASSOCIATION (WWII) REUNION '88

Marriott Hotel - Nashville, Tennessee

September 28 - October 1