

A GATHERING OF ANGELS

In the summer of 1986, forty years after the end of World War II, more than a hundred former members of the Pacific Theater's much decorated 475th Fighter Group — the "Satan's Angels" — gathered, with their wives, for the war-time group's eleventh reunion, July 17-20, in Spokane, Wash.

They came from all over the United States, converging on the city's Cavanaugh Inn at the Park by plane, motor home, and automobile, to renew old acquaintances and make new ones, to reminisce about a moment from their past, and to catch up on one what's new with each other.

Not all personally knew one another from their days in the Pacific, for they represented three squadrons, each a separate and competitive enti-

est to the men. Barbara Thisted, assisted by some of her local committee members, managed a number of activities that were aimed at the women. In addition to informal shopping tours in Spokane's well-known skywalk complex, there was a special ladies' luncheon, a garden tour, and, for men and women not interested in golf, a special tour of local wineries.

More than one wife was captivated by the special ladies' courtesy room, which included a beautician, raspberry champagne on ice, and practical necessities that ranged from an ironing board to a brush curler and a curling iron.

You can relive the highlights of the eleventh reunion of the 475th Fighter Group for years to come, with your own video tape of the get-together in Spokane, Wash.

Send a check for \$18.50, which includes postage and handling, to T.E.M.P.O. Productions, South 400 Jefferson St., Ste. 163, Spokane, Washington 99204.

Be sure to specify Beta or VHS format.

ty, as well as the group itself. Some were assigned to their unit early in the war, others later. But the bond common to all was that each, briefly, had worn the mantle of a Satan's Angel.

As crewchief or clerk, as armorer or pilot, they comprised a unit that, in two years of combat, successfully completed 3,042 missions, was credited with 551 enemy aircraft, and lost only 56 of its own through enemy action. Collectively, they participated in seven major campaigns and were awarded three Distinguished Unit Citations. Forty members were certified aces, including Maj. Thomas B. McGuire, who was credited with 38 enemy aircraft, and who, posthumously, was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor.

With wrench, hammer, and bailing wire, with sinews, nerve, and gut-churning prayer, these were some of the men who, from jungle-hidden airstrips, were responsible for the operation of the 475th's distinctive fighter aircraft, the twin-boomed Lockheed P-38, called the "Lightning". The 475th Fighter Group was the first all-P-38 group in the Pacific, and flew the Lightning throughout the war. This single-seat twin-engine fighter aircraft, with bombs, belly tanks, and nose-mounted machine guns and cannon, was given another name by Japanese soldiers and airmen, against whom it fought, from the skies of New Guinea to the final foxholes of Luzon and Ie Shima. They knew it as the "Forked-Tail Devil".

Indeed, according to at least one air historian, the men and machines of the 475th actually "tipped the scales against the Japanese Air Force in the cloud-covered skies of New Guinea and permitted the movement (of the Americans) back to the Philippines."

But time's sweeping scythe is accomplishing what the Japanese military could not. Participants at the 1986 reunion, as they have in the past, observed a moment of silence for comrades who had died since the previous get-together. Included were Charles Gordon, Arthur Peregoy, John Pietz, Charles Samms, and Ed Weaver. Nor were all survivors in attendance at Spokane. Some were ill, or unable to travel. Others had business or family commitments. Many of these sent personal messages promising to attend the 1988 reunion.

Dale Thisted, who, with his wife, Barbara, was the year-long on-the-scene host-arranger for the reunion, established a hallmark for future events that will be hard to match, including functions and activities, facilities, hospitality, food and services, pre-registration, and communications and mailings.

Indeed, amid all the time for plane talk and reminiscing, there were luncheons, banquets, and a variety of structured activities, ranging from a day-long golf tournament to a tour of nearby Fairchild Air Force Base, where participants got a hands-on view of the flight line, visited the museum, and toured the Survival School.

Not all reunion events were of primary inter-

This Thisted touch, judging from the use and comments, may well become a staple of future reunions.

Frank Nichols again organized and set up the golf tournament; then, with a running commentary, passed out the prizes, during the Saturday-night banquet. But many of the more dedicated golfers felt they were winners just having the opportunity to play the famed Indian Canyon course, which Golf Digest magazine consistently lists in its public-course Top Ten category.

Keynote speaker for the banquet and a pivotal hub, throughout the reunion, for many of the former pilots was Lockheed's retired chief engineering test pilot Tony Levier. To many of those present, Levier always will be "Mr. P-38", although he helped test such other aircraft as the U-2, the Saturn, the Constitution, the P-80, the P-90, the F-94, and the F-104. Levier illustrated his nostalgic remarks with a film and slide presentation on the P-38.

H. N. "Pete" Madison chaired the now-traditional Sunday-morning breakfast and business session, gaveling out fines as well as agenda items, which included selecting the location for the 1988 reunion.

It was determined that the next reunion would be in Dallas, Tex., with John Loisel, aided by his wife, Rae, serving as the host-arranger.

But, as in the past, the 1986 reunion was a gathering of individuals, bonded together by a memory of a common time and activity. Participants — and their wives — found old and new friends.

And still other faces were present, too. For around the walls of the hospitality suites, in carefully-arranged exhibit, photos of hard-edged young men were forever caught in a camera's click, as they leaned against a propeller, read, scrambled for mail-call, or were caught in a motionless game of volleyball. Through the medium of a long-ago camera lens, they looked out at the assemblage. And, if it were possible, surely they would have been pleased by what they saw.

Finally, the 1986 reunion was one of names. There was Wally and Betty Arbanas, John and Alice Babel, Jack and Lucille Ballard, Edward and Lucille Barski, Bill and Goldie Bean, Carl and Edith Begh, Leo Blakley, Bernard Brennan, Jim and Lee Bullivant, Dale and Betty Burgess.

Conrad and Genevieve Charles, Tom Cherro, Eugene and Mary Lois Ciolek, Albert and Birdie Coburn, Warren and Gwen Cortner, Fred Cuthill, Perry and Bobbie Dahl, John Daniel, Ray and Doris Dunn, Webster and Lillian Dupre.

Jack Durkin, John Ehlinger, Ralph and Lorraine Faccione, Charley and Roena Ford, Joe and Janis Forster, George Gabik, Howard Gearhart, Ray and Carolyn Giles, Art and Marie Goodwin, Harold and Carol Gray.

Fred Gunn, Ralph and Helen Gutierrez, Jim and Dee Guttery, Bob "Heavy" Hall, Teddy and Helen Hanks, Eddie Henson, Mrs. Arlys Hjerreld, Leland Howerton, Bascom and Jo Ann Jones, Joe and Bev Kaliszewski, Ray and Doris Kees, Robert and Annabelle King, Tony Levier.

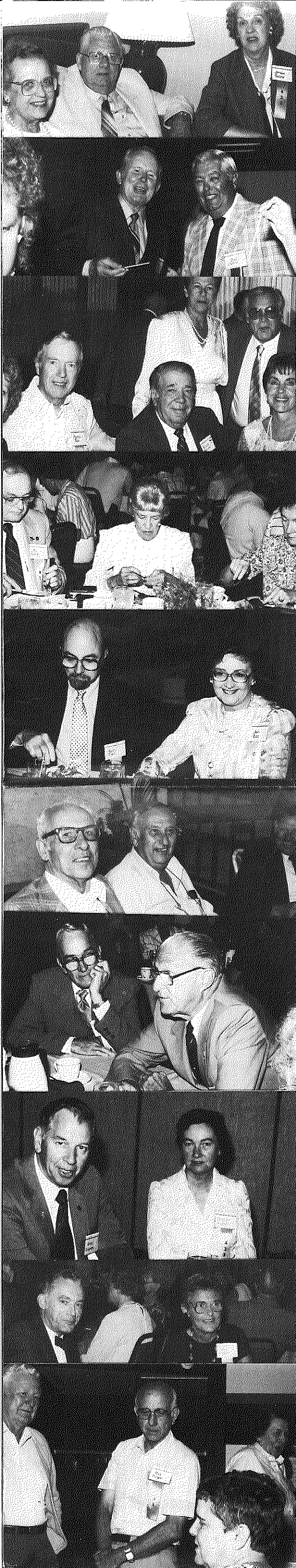
John and Rae Loisel, H. N. "Pete" and Anne Madison, Clifford and Ruth Mann, Pepper and Edythe Martin, Howard and Ruth Max, Glenn Maxwell, Michael May, Oliver McAfee.

George and Betty Jane McLees, William and Evelyn Meyer, Walter and Jeanne Mills, Jim and Judy Moreing, Jack and Marian Naylor, Frank Nichols, Joe O'Neil, Ed and Fran O'Neill, Jack "Fox" Olson, Thomas "Bud" and Pat Oxford, Leon Pagan.

Chuck and Sally Parshall, Dallas Peavyhouse, Mrs. Johnnie Peregoy, Carl Redding, Bo and Yvonne Reeves, William Richards, Marvin and Laurine Rose, Ralph and Mickey Sacks, Pierre and Anne Schoener.

James Schott, Robert and Katy Schuh, Charles and Mardell Senter, Jim and Mary Jane Shelton, George and Elizabeth Skipper, Ralph Smith, Richard and Therese Spezzano, Wesley and Ruth Steger, Vincent and Alice Straus, William and Francine Taff, Dale and Barbara Thisted, Henry Toll, Robert and Helen Tomberg, Donald Wagner, Amos Wainer, Robert and Dale Weary, Calvin and Eva Wire, and John York.





MADISON HONORED

Many people, over the years, have played important roles in one or more of the 475th Fighter Group reunions, since the first one was held in 1965, more than 20 years ago, in Riverside, Calif.

H. N. "Pete" Madison has been active in EVERY reunion. He has contributed time, money, and enthusiasm to make each reunion a success, and to meld the former members of the Satan's Angels into a close-knit "family".

As one observer noted, "He has applauded when appropriate; encouraged where needed; and pushed, pulled, and shoved if required."

In the same sense that Tony Levier always will be Mr. P-38, Madison will be remembered as Mr. 475th Reunion, and justly so. There has been more than a little bit of Pete Madison in all of the reunions.

But it was left to Bob Hall to spearhead an effort to tangibly honor the Californian. Hall, a nationally-known artist and former intelligence officer for the group's 431st Fighter Squadron, solicited contributions for a suitable recognition memento.

Noting that Pete collects cowboy-indian art, Hall selected a fine bronze horse, approximately 16 inches by 16 inches, entitled "The Yearling", by Colorado sculptor, Carl Wagner.

The presentation was made at the eleventh reunion in Spokane, Wash., with reunion participants in attendance. Hall made the presentation, reading the inscription.

It read, in part, "With your yearling-like enthusiasm and wholehearted leadership in developing and supporting our semi-annual reunions, we grow as one large family...for which we love you. . ."

In honoring Pete Madison, Hall and others in attendance also honored the efforts and enthusiasm of Pete's wife, Anne.

"But then," Pete points out, "she's always been the power behind the cockpit."

NEW, DETAILED GROUP HISTORY IS BEING PREPARED IN BOOK FORM...

When and where did you first join the 475th Fighter Group? Do you have trouble remembering some of the campaigns, the names of fellow members, and the sequence and dates of the island-hopping achievements of the Group and its Squadrons?

That's to be understood, for those long-ago times were a compression of memories and moments that encompassed some of the fiercest fighting of the air-war in the South Pacific.

With the 1988 Dallas re-union tentatively targeted for its release, a new, detailed, carefully-researched history of the Group from its inception in New Guinea through Korea is nearing

Word has been received that, as of early September, there have been more than 100 positive responses to the initial informational mailing of John Loisel's 1988 Re-union Planning Committee. Send YOUR response in today.

completion, and will be available in book form. It's sure to become a collector's item, and of interest to former members, historians, students and military aviation enthusiasts.

Former-member Bob Weary underwrote the start of the project, turning the undertaking from dream into reality. Dr. Robin Higham, University of Kansas, has been contracted to supervise the activity.

Dr. Ron Yoshino, historian, Riverside Community College, is writing the history.

Complete with photos, dates, anecdotes, and unit accomplishments, the history will be a book you will want for your library, an important touchstone to a moment from your past.

Dallas!

Plans for the 1988 reunion of former members of the 475th Fighter Group may include the first official viewing of the Planes of Fame's restored P-38, which is being painted with the unit's insignia and colors.

The 1988 reunion will be held May 12 through 15, at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Dallas, Tex., with John Loisel and his wife, Rae, serving as on-the-scene host-arrangers for the event.

Loisel said the latest word from the Chino, Calif., museum was that restoration was well-



OUR WINGS OF HONOR WALL & Planes of Fame Museum

The Planes of Fame air museum in Chino, Calif., is the site of a special 475th Fighter Group memorabilia museum and archive, as well as the homebase for the soon-to-be-restored P-38, painted with the unit's colors and insignia.

It's also the site of a spectacular "Wings of Honor" wall, created to honor individuals in aviation and to help with the cost of restoring the World War II Lightning.

As a former Satan's Angel, or as a person interested in aviation, you can have an enlarged set of wings, with your name on them, permanently mounted on the wall.

Send a hundred-dollar contribution to the museum to H.N. "Pete" Madison, specify the name you want on the set of wings, and note that the contribution is for the P-38 restoration.

Your wings will join those of more than 50 other former members of the 475th.

And if you have memorabilia from your days with the unit in the South Pacific — photographs, sketches, or other artifacts — consider ear-marking them for inclusion in the 475th museum and archive.

The air museum has recently doubled the space allotted the unit.



underway and, with luck, the P-38 will be flown to Dallas for the reunion.

The familiar twin-boomed Lightning would be only one of the attractions being planned for Dallas. In bigger-than-life Texas-style enthusiasm, the Loisels want the Dallas event "to be the biggest and best ever."

And it will be, if work and enthusiasm can make it so. The Loisels already have pressed into service the talents of number of Dallas-area unit members, including Ted and Helen Hanks.

Loisel urged former unit members to block out the dates in May. As the event gets closer, he said, there will be individual mailings to all members on the 475th roster, detailing activity

WE'LL BE THERE

and reservation information.

Frank Nichols, of course, is holding out for the traditional golf face-off, and he points out a number of the former members should be reaching a point when "they can shoot their age".

Rae Loisel, on the other hand, acting on some pointers from former host-arrangers Dale and Barbara Thisted, promises a number of activities of special interest to wives.

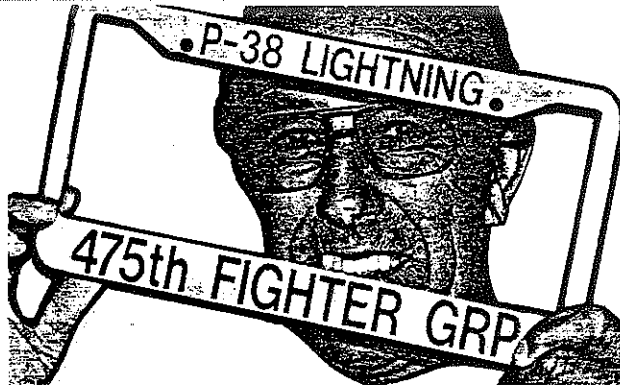
HOW ABOUT YOU ?



SATAN'S ANGELS

475TH
FIGHTER
GROUP

MUSEUM

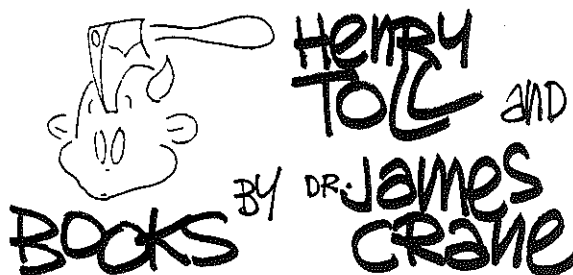


Spend a lot of time in your car each day? Let the driver behind you know of your former affiliation with the 475th Fighter Group and the P-38 Lightning.

For eight dollars, you can receive a special imprinted license-plate holder that will set you and your car apart. Let you be noticed.

Send your check to H. N. "Pete" Madison, Satan's Angels, 150 North Myers St., Los Angeles, Calif. 90033.

Or send sixteen dollars and get one of the special plates for your RV or second car, too.



There are two new books out that will interest many of you, and you may want to add one or both to your library.

The first is "Tropic Lightning", by Henry C. Toll. Toll, no stranger to many former members of the 475th Fighter Group, during World War II, island-hopped in the South Pacific, with pen in hand.

Rather than write to his wife, he sent home lighthearted line drawings illustrating incidents and adventures of P-38 fighter pilots.

"Tropic Lightning" is a collection of his best drawings. Send \$7.95 to Sunflower University Press, Box 1009, Manhattan, Kansas 66502.

The second book, by flight surgeon James E. Crane, B.S., M.D., D.A.S., is entitled "The Pilot's Brain, Mind and Memory", and is a knowledgeable impression of what it's like to fly with, associate, and advise pilots.

To receive a copy, send \$24.50 plus postage to James E. Crane, M.D., 965 Hope St., Stamford, CT 06907.

The book is recommended by Maj. Gen. Frank Nichols, which is a heavy endorsement indeed.



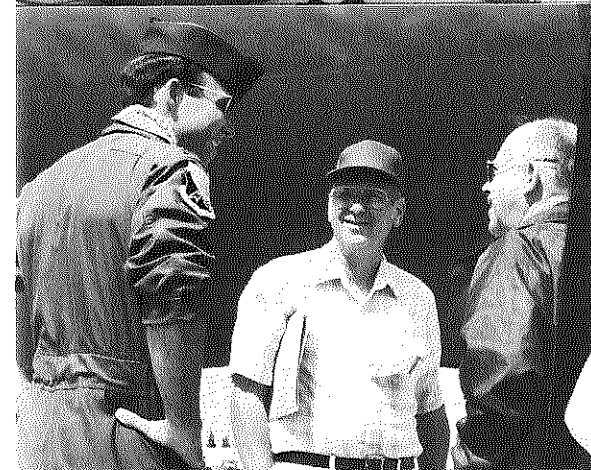
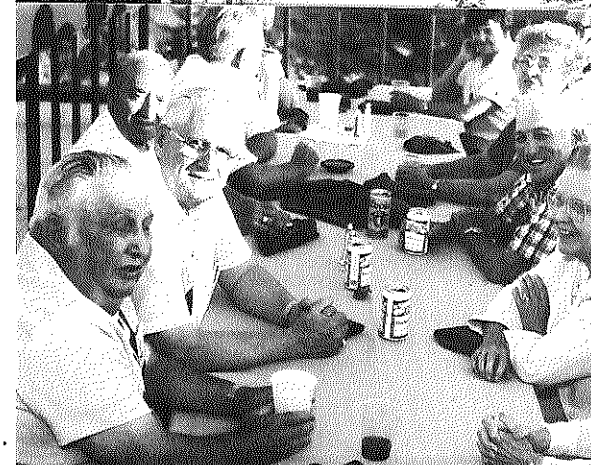
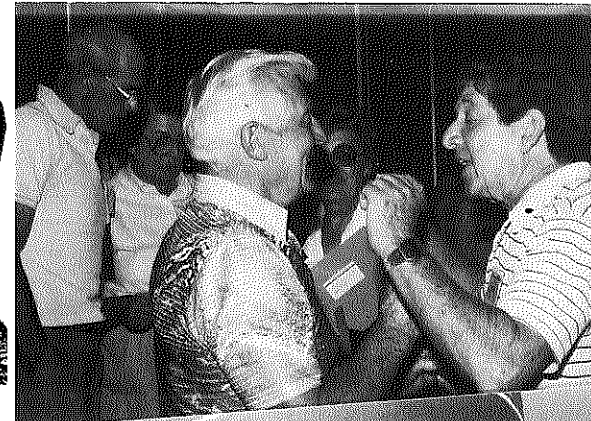
PETE SAYS WE NEED A BIG SAFE IN OUR MUSEUM TO STORE COMBAT FILM AND OTHER IRRIPLACEABLE MEMORABELIA, AND THAT DONATION OF SAFE IS A TAX CREDIT.

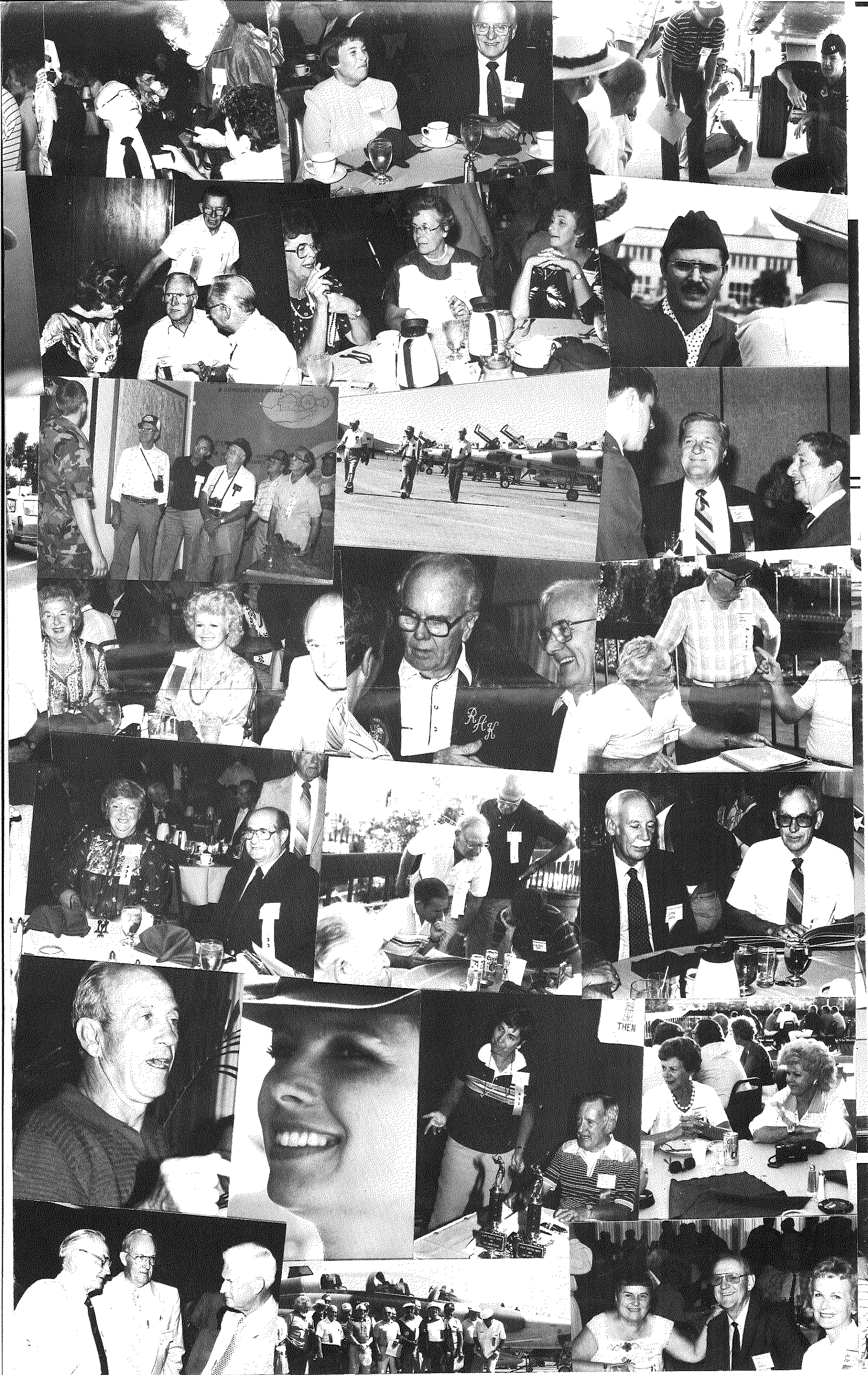
PETE SAYS WE HAVE ANOTHER PROBLEM. HE DOESN'T KNOW HOW YOU FORGETFUL ONES EXPECT TO STAY IN TOUCH WITH YOUR 475TH BUDDIES UNLESS YOU SEND IN YOUR CHANGE OF ADDRESS EACH TIME YOU MOVE.

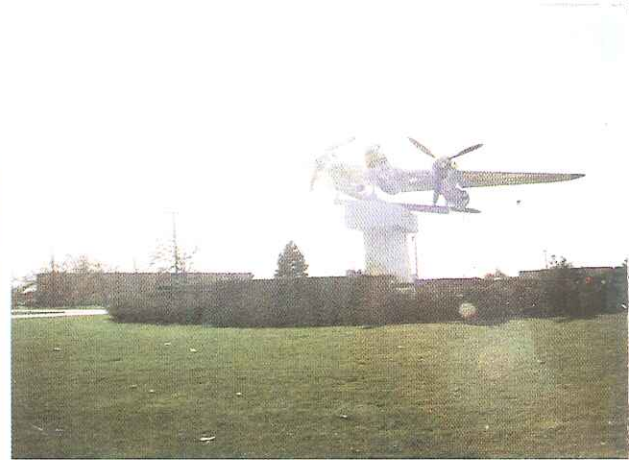
... ALSO, THE BIG P-38 MODEL WITH 10 FEET WINGSPREAD WAS DONATED TO OUR MUSEUM BY BOB ANTONEL OF C.B.A. MODELS OF WARREN, OHIO AND IS VALUED IN EXCESS OF \$5,000. THANK YOU, BOB... COME RE-WRITE WITH US IN DALLAS.

... ALSO, HE WANTS TO CREDIT BASCOM JONES FOR TAKING MOST OF THE PICTURES AND POUNDING OUT THE TYPEWRITTEN COPY... AND CREDIT BOB HALL FOR LAYING OUT THIS FLIER AND PASTE UP.

AS FOR PETE MADISON... HE IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE SUPERVISION, THE PRINTING & THE MAILING ETC.







SECRETARY OF DEFENSE CASPER WEINBERGER DEDICATES MEMORIAL TO MCGUIRE

More than 3000 people, including Secretary of Defense Casper Weinberger and representatives of the former 475th Fighter Group's 431st Fighter Squadron, turned out on a Saturday morning late last year for the dedication of a memorial to the unit's Medal of Honor winner Maj. Thomas B. McGuire Jr. The dedication ceremonies and the memorial were at the New Jersey Air Force base named in his honor.

Dignitaries included H. N. "Pete" Madison, a former member of McGuire's 431st Fighter Squadron. The memorial, which was a dream come true for many who knew McGuire well, featured a P-38 Lightning perched high atop a dramatic concrete edifice created by architect Ken Gardner. The P-38 was painted to replicate McGuire's aircraft, including the name "Pudgy", which was his nickname for his wife.

At the ceremonies, Secretary Weinberger pointed out, "When I was in New Guinea...I can't tell you how comforting it was to those of us in the infantry and usually in the mud to see this very distinctive (P-38) silhouette. For one thing, we knew it wasn't a Zero, and we also knew it was manned by some extraordinary, able, and capable people who were helping us."

The Secretary of Defense went on to point out that McGuire epitomized what an American airman should be. "He was daring and yet careful of his men, he was proud, not boastful, he was decisive and flexible, and he was caring and yet as exacting as a leader has to be. He was leadership born of deeds — and uncommon valor."

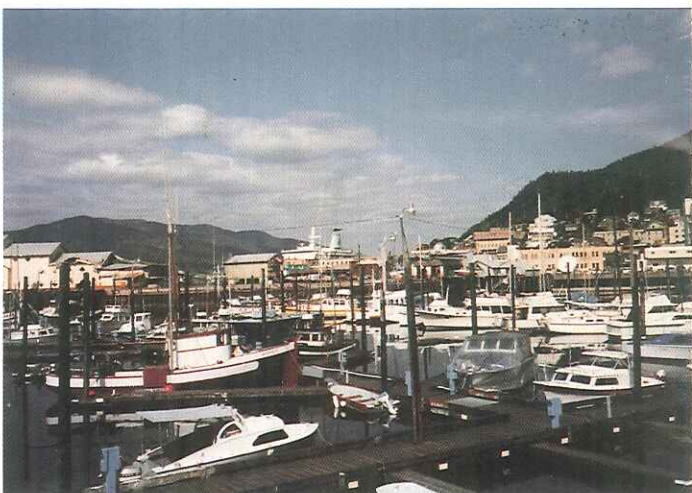
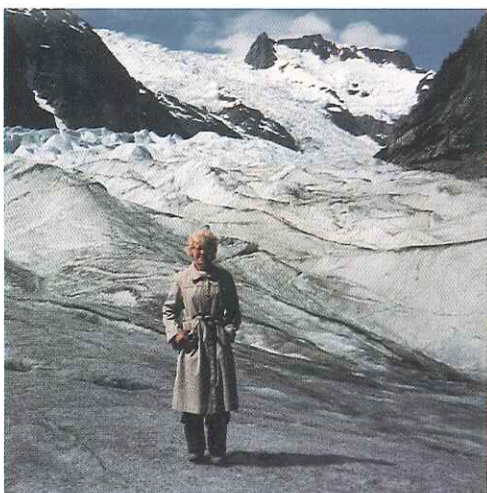
AIR FORCE magazine, in covering the dedication ceremonies, noted that the memorial "is a fitting tribute to a man who torched the skies" over the South Pacific, scoring thirty-eight victories before being lost "to legend over Negros Island in the Philippines on January 7, 1945."

The memorial, which has been years in the making, was the inspiration of Bill Demas, who dreamed up the idea and immediately got to work on it when he was president of New Jersey's McGuire Air Force Association Chapter almost 10 years ago. The memorial includes a "Freedom Walk" that is impeccably groomed, and a museum housing McGuire memorabilia.

Demas said the memorial's successful completion truly represents the American spirit of volunteerism. The activity raised \$500,000 and solicited an army of volunteers, including the American Bricklayers Association, which donated 30,000 bricks and laid them for the memorial.

But one of the greatest difficulties, Demas recalled, was locating a suitable P-38. One finally was located in California, but it arrived in New Jersey in camouflage markings and required more than "20,000 hours of volunteer time for restoration to its original beauty," he said.

The night before the dedication, representatives present from the 475th were honored at a banquet sponsored by the local AFA chapter and the McGuire Foundation.



ANGELS IN ALASKA

Eighteen participants at the Spokane reunion joined forces and continued on a tour-cruise to Alaska, following the Washington get-together, with Alice Babel serving as tour scribe.

"It seemed strange," she observed, "to experience just two hours of semi-darkness in a twenty-four-hour period, with dinner at 10 p.m. in broad daylight, and sunrise at 2 a.m."

All were awed by the majestic snow-capped mountains, she said, and surprised by the many flowers blooming in deep, vivid colors. But the food topped everything.

During the trip, the group was transported by a variety of means, including a modern jet, rail, a DC-3, a bus, and the cruise ship, Stardancer, not to mention sore feet.





OUR P-38 PRIOR TO STREET OF RESTORATION, AT PLAINES OF FAME AIR SHOW, CHINO, CA. 85- WILL FLY IN TO GREET US AT OUR DALLAS REUNION, MAY 12-15, 88. BE THERE!

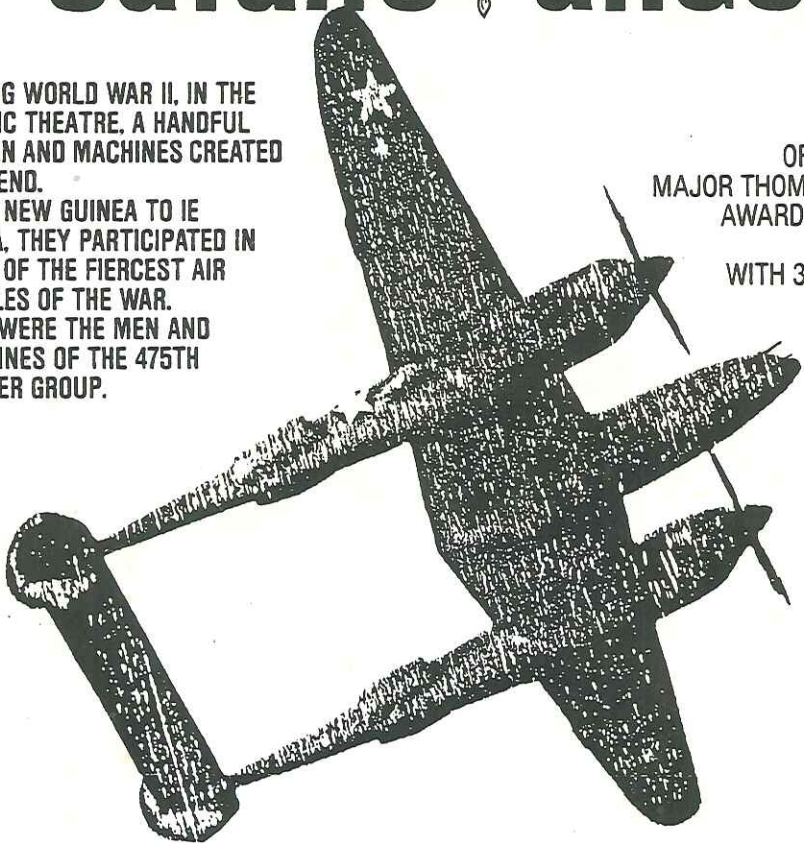
SPokane Reunion '86
Reunion in Dallas '88
P-38 RESTORATION.
MUSEUM AT CHINO, CA.

• a report on
• preparation for
• an update on our
• more info on our



satan's angels

DURING WORLD WAR II, IN THE PACIFIC THEATRE, A HANDFUL OF MEN AND MACHINES CREATED A LEGEND. FROM NEW GUINEA TO IJIMA, THEY PARTICIPATED IN SOME OF THE FIERCEST AIR BATTLES OF THE WAR. THEY WERE THE MEN AND MACHINES OF THE 475TH FIGHTER GROUP.



LEADING P-38 ACE
OF 475TH FIGHTER GP.
MAJOR THOMAS B. McGUIRE, JR.,
AWARDED CONGRESSIONAL
MEDAL OF HONOR,
WITH 38 AERIAL VICTORIES

559
AERIAL
VICTORIES
1943 - 1945

spirit of the 475th fighter gp. (sqdrns. 431-432-433)

A COMMEMORATIVE BRONZE PLAQUE (see above), honoring the men of the 475th Fighter Group, is one of many now on display at the United States Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, Colo. The plaque was designed by Bob Hall, with copy provided by Bascom Jones, both former members of the group's 431st Fighter Squadron. You can receive a 14 by 14-inch carefully-printed copy of the commemorative plaque, suitable for framing, by forwarding six dollars to H.R. "Pete" Madison, 150 N. Myers St., Los Angeles, Calif. 90033. It'll highlight your den or trophy wall, bring back memories.

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