



475th FIGHTER GROUP

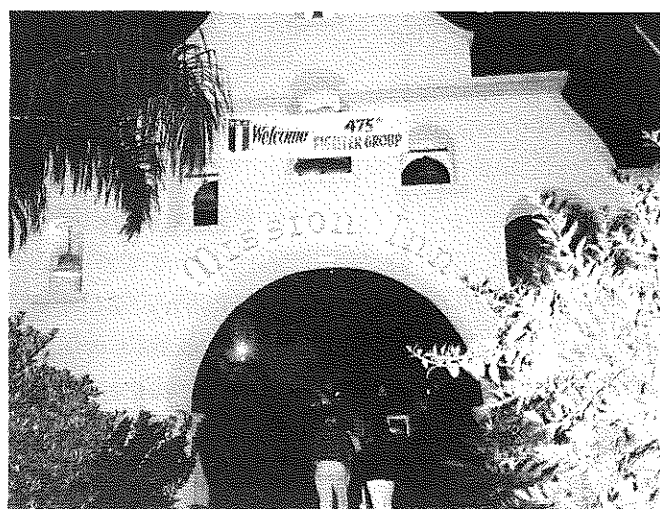
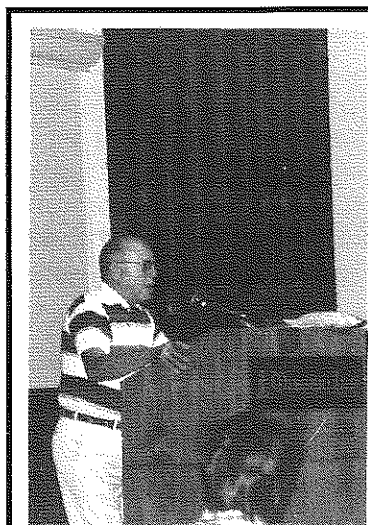
5th Air Force

Satan's Angels



NEWSLETTER

February, 1996



The 475th News

The sun shone on the 475th and the Mission Inn when members gathered for their annual reunion in Riverside, CA in early October. The weather was great, the inn was beautiful and everyone was happy. This was a memorable event because not only was it our 18th reunion it was 30th anniversary of the first one in 1965 at the same place—Mission Inn. It was also the 50th anniversary of the end of WWII—our war.

The crew did an outstanding job of organizing everything. The preliminary work was well done, a lot of it by the Madison's. Dale and Barbara Thisted really took over and ran operations during the event. (Anyone need their parking ticket validated?) Bobbie Dahl and her crew ran a very efficient check-in. Seymour Prell and Ruth kept the liquor flowing. They always seemed to have enough volunteer bartenders there. All in all it was a smooth operation and the organizers certainly deserve a vote of thanks. Those who didn't make it missed a great affair. And those of us who did make it missed you. Maybe next time??

Throughout the affair there was outstanding artwork by Geo Jeschke. There were posters with the group insignia guiding you to all the meeting rooms. There were also group and squadron insignia on 16" X 20" posters available to those who contributed to the museum. Then too, the other art work was Bob Hall, as usual, doing his portraits.

The Santa Barbara room was well attended and offered a great collection of memorabilia and videos plus books, shirts, pins, etc...you name it, it was there. There was coffee on tap all the time and it was a great place to sit with friends and re-fight the war. As always, we still won. But for outsiders to hear the tall tales they sometimes wonder how. P.J. says he can claim almost as many American planes as Jap.

Our registering and bar were in a suite just off the patio. We were able to take our drinks out onto it and sit there in the California sun soaking up the rays. It was a very calm and serene setting and seemed to be miles away from the hustle and bustle of the real world.

All who wanted were treated to a tour of the inn. It is a fascinating place just dripping with history. While its main decor is Spanish Mission it has enough antiques to satisfy the most discriminating palate. It is unique! The tours were well worth while

The Mission Inn seemed to be the perfect place for such a reunion. It was so enjoyable that it was agreed that we should meet there again in a couple of years. There were other reasons for that also. The main one being that in a couple of years our own 475th Museum should be complete and we can then visit it in all its glory.

Then, the high light of the reunion, a trip to March AFB. Here we saw the exhibit of 475th memorabilia which at present is in the middle of the base's museum but in the near future will be in its own museum adjacent to the present location. The exhibit recalled a thousand memories to those who had served in the group in WWII. At every exhibit there were the familiar words, "Remember when—"

Pete Madison led the dedication of the museum exhibit and introduced many of the base personnel as well as seven of our Aces and a C.M.H. winner. The Aces were well known to all of you, in alphabetic order, P.J. Dahl, Joe Forster, John Loisel, Warren Louis, John Purdy, Bo Reeves and Cal Wire. Our guest, Col. Lew Millett, won his C.M.H. in Korea.

Many of the people involved in the base were introduced. SMSGT Tim Colburn is Director of the Museum. Dave McPhee is Base Civil Engr.. Joy Defenbaugh is a Councilwoman involved in the uses of the base. Col. Steve Clark is Realignment Officer.

After walking down memory lane inside we went outside of the building for a fly-over by Cmdr. Ed Schneider in an F18.

Cmdr. Schneider holds a Navy commission but flies for NASA. Then on to the buses and off to the Officer's Club for dinner. We got there in time to add to the crowd and confusion of the Friday night Happy Hour. But as resourceful as we are we managed to get our drinks.

At the dinner we had most of the people from the museum as our guests along with our bus drivers and Col. & Mrs. Steve Scott. After dinner we had a talk, with slides by Cmdr. Schneider on the SR71 a truly fantastic plane which is one of our "eyes in the skies".

Saturday was a day of reminiscing and re-fighting the war. We won. At 3:00 there was a ceremony at the Flyers' Wall where Col. MacDonald's wings were added to the many famous ones already there including Mat McGuire and Charles Lindberg. As you recall both of them flew with the 475th. It was mentioned that Maj. Bong's should be there also and an effort should be made to see that happen. He too made some flights with the 475th although he was in the 49th. Some of his family were there for the events.

That evening there was a wine and cheese party, hosted by the Mission Inn, at poolside, for our group. No one went swimming. Then into the Music Room for our banquet.

On Sunday Morning the group had it's breakfast and business meeting in the Music room. After that it was head for home.

REUNION VIDEO TAPE

A video tape was made at the reunion and is available to members. It is about 1 hour and 45 minutes long and can be had for \$20. To order send a check to Loren Dexheimer, 44508 13th St. E, Lancaster, CA 93535 tel: (805) 948-4339. A part of the money goes to the 475th Museum.

475th FIGHTER GROUP MUSEUM

For those of you who couldn't join us at Riverside this is to let you know that we are in the process of building our own 475th Fighter Group Museum.

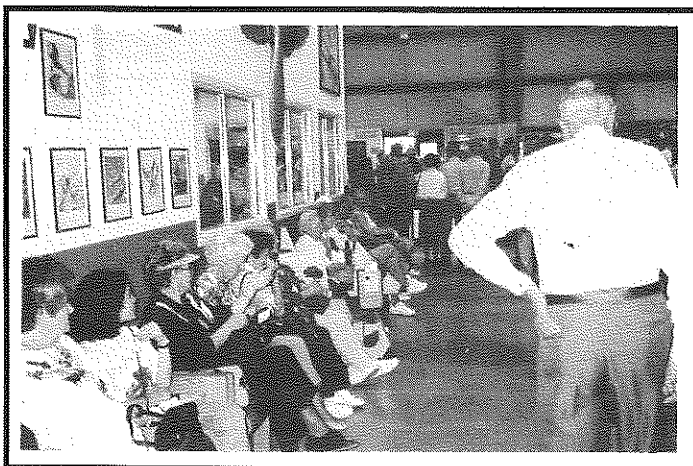
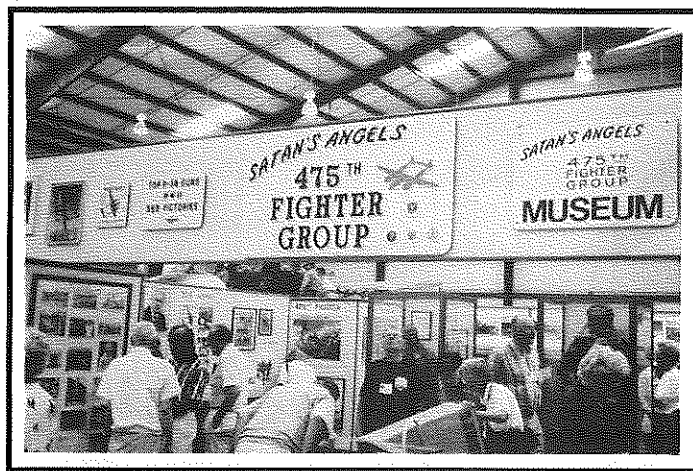
It is at March AFB and will be located next to the base museum. At the present time the stuff which was at Chino has been transferred to March. Part of it is being exhibited in a set aside area within the base museum. Once our own is completed it will all move there and much more of it will be on display.

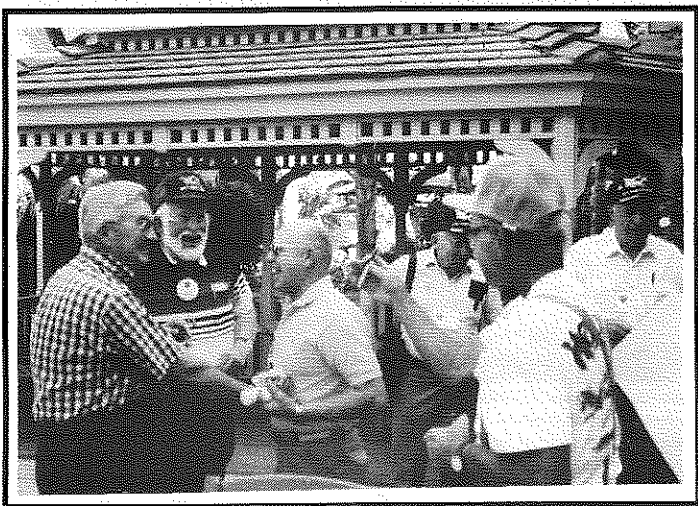
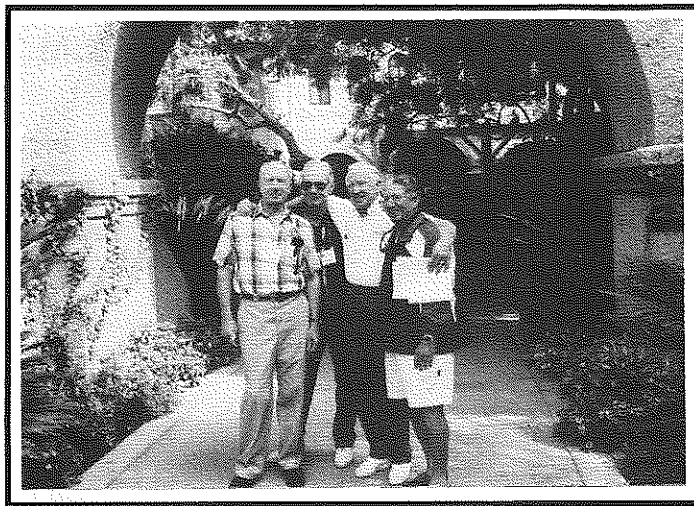
Here is your chance to become part of this. To complete the building will take between \$30,000-\$50,000. So obviously money is needed. Also there will be room for more exhibits so more artifacts can be used. Search your attics and cellars. If you have anything pertaining to the 475th contact the museum about shipping it out there. If you know of any members who have died and left things, contact their families and see if they will donate them in memory of that person.

The address for artifacts for "Satan's Angels" Museum is: 475th Fighter Group Museum, P.O. Box 6463, March AFB, CA 92518. Or you can call them at (909) 655-2138. The man to contact is SMSGT Tim Colburn.

Tax free contributions can be sent to the Museum Treasurer, "Johnnie" Peregoy, 416 Avenida de Jose, Redondo Beach, CA 90277. A donation of \$75 or more will get you a memorial plate depicting the Putt Putt Maru in combat.

As we don't have dues or "fines" at our reunions those of you who have not attended one of them or sent a contribution to our Treasurer, Jan Forster, have had a free ride. How about making up for it by sending a contribution to the museum? Let us not allow the history we have created fade away.





ON TO THE MUSEUM

THREE ACES

5th Air Force Memorial Foundation

The 5th Air Force Memorial Foundation is a group dedicated to recognizing what the 5th AF did in WWII and keeping the memory alive by establishing memorials in places where the 5th AF was active as well as places within the USA where it is deemed fitting to place such things. For those interested you can contact the Membership Chairman, George R. McGee, 8200 Elm, Raytown, MO 64138.

OLD FRIENDS MEET

WINE & CHEESE

P38 National Association

Are you interested in joining a group that has as its aim the recognition of the P38 Lightning, its contributions and the preservation of its memory? There is such a group for that and if you want information just contact our own Seymour Prell at 4961 Lerkas Way, Oceanside, CA 92506, Tel: (619) 945-7631. He is the Secretary of the organization and is looking for new members. It is a great way to be sure people don't forget what we, and the P38, did in WWII.

As Betty Frieden says, "We don't stop playing because we grow old. We grow old because we stop playing."

475TH REUNION CRUISE

The 1996 Reunion Committee has come up with a proposal for a Reunion Cruise from Florida, 7 nights, from 26 October to 2 November 1996. Information will be coming soon, if you haven't already received it.

The cruise will leave Ft. Lauderdale and hit San Juan, St. Thomas, St. Martens and Nassau. It promises excellent food and great entertainment. Provisions will be made to include air fare if you so desire. (N. B. remember you can fly on Sr. Coupons.)

Early bookings may make you eligible for upgrades To contact the travel agent direct call Bruce at 1-800-367-9980.

So watch your mail for further information including ship pictures, room locations, prices and amenities. Get ready for a great time!!!

The committee consists of Howard & Ruth Max, chair, tel. (305) 932-7844. Ably assisted by P. J. & Bobbi Dahl and Ralph & Mickey Sacks.



WINGS OF FAME
Carpe Diem -Tempus Fugits

THE 475TH NOW

How are we doing? How are you doing? This group is your group. Its purpose to continue and renew friendships and memories of 50 years ago. You, as a member when it was an active, fighting outfit, are an integral part of it. It does not exist without you. Are you an active part of it now?

If you receive this you are on the mailing list and should have received a roster with names and addresses of all members. If you don't have one contact Janis Forster. Go through it. Find some old buddies who you swore you'd never forget and would keep in touch with, but didn't. Contact them and renew that friendship. Convince them to come to the reunions with you. Do you recognize anyone in the pictures? Drop him a note.

Contact us. Let us know what your thoughts are. Do you have any ideas for or about reunions? Do you know how we can get more members out to them? Would you help with them? What can be done to make them bigger and better?

We, who are now a part of history, should keep in touch and keep the spirit of WWII alive. This can best be done by being united and working to preserve the past. So, as they say on TV, "Reach out and touch someone".

PASSINGS

John Babel of the 433rd died on the 31st of October 1995.

Carl A. King of the 431st died this month.

William Hanning of the 431st died on 17 December 1995.

A fitting way to honor any of these men is to send a donation to the 475th Museum in their name.

SEARCH & RESCUE!!!

Where are they??? It is estimated that about 3,000 men served in the 475th during WWII. This is based on the fact that when Col. Loisel took over as C.O. the duty roster listed about 1,250 men. Almost none of these were originals from Australia, so that meant that there was a complete turn-over in personnel, and more were added. But we haven't found all of them. So let us SEARCH for them and RESCUE them from oblivion.

At the present time we have 548 names on our mailing list. When you deduct the duplicates for those having winter and summer addresses and the Honorary members, we are talking 500 men. We have a list of about 100 who were on our list at one time but moved without notifying us and their mail has been returned as "undeliverable". Then we have the big list of almost 1,200 names of people we have never been able to contact. And last, but not least, we have those whose names we never got.

These lists come mainly out of the "Blue Book" which was published before WWII ended. Then we have Ronald Yoshino's "Lightning Strikes". Both of these we know are not complete. Any one of us can recall names of men who we know were in the outfit but whose names are not listed. So the list of missing is in the neighborhood of 2,000. If anyone can

come up with better sources please let us know. We know many have passed on and we have no list of those. Should we?

Now comes the big question, who is willing to Search?? For those that are willing, lists can be provided. These can be printed up by either squadron or by state, of the last known address. Naturally the addresses of the 1,200 never contacted are 50 years old. But it is a starting point. If you know of any not listed in the "Blue Book" let us know so they can be added to the list. Our museum should at least have a complete list of those who served. We should have a complete list of those who are still with us.

For anyone willing to search contact: Curt Tinker, P.O. Box 498, Intervale, NH 03845-0498, Tel: (603) 356-6099. Let him know where you are willing to look and what list you want. Good places to start your search are telephone books and city directories. If you have access to the CDROM listing all the telephone numbers and addresses in the USA you could start there. Anyone belonging to a fraternal or veteran organization which has a publication could try and put a notice in that. Anyone wishing to add names which we don't have please write them out and send them to the address above. Let's try and find all the 475th members before it is too late!

DFC SOCIETY

A non-profit organization for men who have earned the Distinguished Flying Cross has been established. Those who are eligible and interested may contact: The Distinguished Flying Cross Society, 34552 Camino Capistrano, Capistrano Beach, CA 92624-1234

475TH LICENSE PLATES

If you live in one of those states which only have one license plate you might be interested in getting a special 457th plate for the front. Archie Weidener had one made for his car so now that the die is available others can get them for about \$20. They come in a variety of colors, vinyl covered aluminum. The plate has a P38 in the middle with 475th Ftr. Gp. on the right. The left side can be customized with squadron number or HQ. Those interested can contact Gerald N. Padgett, P.O. Box 3967, Gulf Shores, AL 36547 or Tel. (334) 968-7901 FAX (334) 968-7903

THE 475TH BUSINESS MEETING

Sunday, 8 October 1995

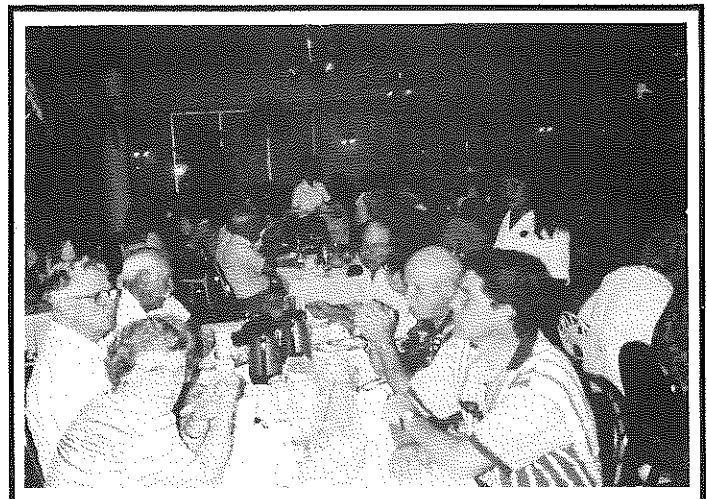
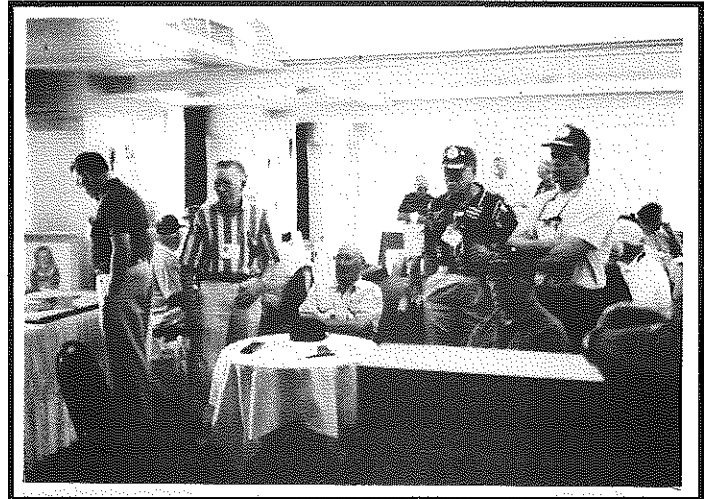
As usual the last event of the reunion was the business meeting at Sunday's breakfast. Naturally it included a few of P.J.'s jokes. The 433rd offered to adopt him as mascot but his wife, Bobbi, objected.

A motion was made and passed to contribute \$5,000 of group funds to the 475th Museum. This money will come from funds which the group has accumulated over the past few years.

The next reunion, for 1996, was discussed. Howard Max put forward the idea of a cruise out of Miami for the affair. He felt that as November is very slow in the cruise business we could get a group rate of around \$800 for a one week cruise. For those flying in it is possible the shipping line could offer a flying package for about \$100 each. After some discussion and a show of hands it was agreed to look at the one week cruise and then get the word out to the members.

A question was asked about the plan put forward at Gatlinburg re: Disney World. P.J. offered to look into something in the Orlando area if the cruise doesn't work out. But either way it looks like we will be headed for Florida for our next reunion in the fall of 1996.

Seymour Prell, bartender extraordinaire & Secretary of the P38 Asso. mentioned a gigantic meeting of all P38 groups in the year 2000. Stand by for details.



LICENSE FRAMES

Plastic frames for license plates are available. They are white with blue printing. The top says "P38 Lightning" and the bottom says "475th Ftr. Gp. (5AF)" they are available free from Pete Madison, 1660 Dunham Rd., Palm Springs, CA 92664-9629. A contribution to the museum would be appreciated.

431



Hades

432



Clover

433



Possum

CHANGES OF ADDRESS

PLEASE!! Keep us informed of any address changes. Our mailings go out "Forward & Address Correction Requested" which means that if your address has changed and the Post Office has it or if the mail is undeliverable, we are notified. This costs the group an additional \$.50 for each notification and/or returned piece. But this is about the only way we can hope to keep our mailing list up to date. So help us help you. Report any changes ASAP to: Curt Tinker, P.O. Box 498, Intervale, NH 03845-0498 or call (603) 356-6099.

All these mailing costs come out of the group treasury, which is separate from the museum fund. This treasury is maintained by Jan Forster, 2477 Leisure World, Mesa, AZ 85206. As we do not charge any dues we don't have a lot of money to waste so your cooperation will help.

DID YOU KNOW CHUCK?

The family of F/O Charles Ray DeWeese would like to hear from anyone who knew him. Chuck joined the 432nd in Jan '45 and was MIA 28 Mar '45 over Lubang on a flight to Indonesia out of Clark Field. Would anyone who knew him please contact William Huff, 707 St. Mary's Rd. Monroe, MI 48162-2752.

PICTURES

The museum would like to have an 8" X 10" picture of every man who served in the 475th. If you have not already done so would you find a picture taken when you were in service, have an 8" X 10" copy of it made and send it to: 475th Ftr. Gp. Museum, P.O. Box 6463, March AFB, CA 92518. Be sure and identify it. If you know of any member who has passed on could you contact his family and see if you could get one of him.

FIRST CLASS

COL. PERRY DAHL (RET)
103 VALENCIA DR.
ISLAMORADA FL 33036

Forward & address correction requested.

475th Ftr. Gp.
P.O. Box 498
Intervale, NH 03845-0498

