

HIGHLIGHTS OF 20-YEAR REUNION

SATAN'S ANGELS



Plans Underway Now For 1967 Dayton Reunion

For all who missed the first reunion of the 475th Fighter Group, there is the promise of a better day on the horizon.

Emboldened by the overwhelming success of the initial get-together and, possibly, overfortified by fermented vitamin juices, participants voted unanimously at the



NICHOLS



LOISEL

Sunday-morning "Redeye Brunch" to schedule a second Satan's Angels reunion in September, 1967, in Dayton, Ohio.

Col. John Loisel and Col. Franklin Nichols, representing the active Air Force, were named honorary chairmen of the Dayton reunion, while Jack Purdy and Pete Madison were appointed chairman and co-chairman for the event.

Thus, even before the first reunion officially ended, Purdy and a skeleton committee had begun drafting tentative plans to "make Dayton in 1967 an even more spectacular success for all attendees."

The working chairman says he will draw heavily upon the experience of Madison, who headed the Riverside reunion. However, he expected the biggest problem still to be "locating the far-scattered veterans of the 475th," and he

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Get-together Is 'Haunting, Happy Affair'

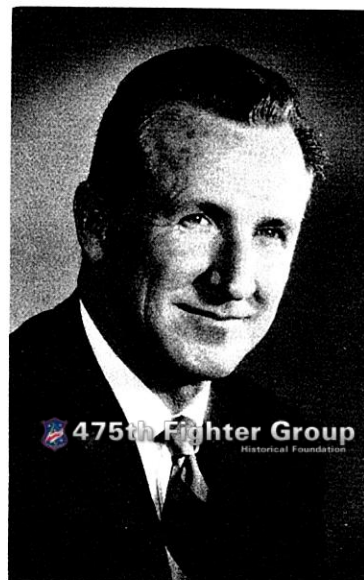
Famed Wing Ceremony Reunion Highpoint

From throughout the United States and from around the world, more than 100 former members of the USAF's famed 475th Fighter Group, the "Satan's Angels" of World War II, targeted in on the Mission Inn at Riverside, Calif., Oct. 15-17, 1965, for the group's first reunion since its combat in the Pacific.

The 20-year reunion, attracting veterans from the group's 431st, 432nd, and 433rd Fighter Squadrons, was born as an idea over an afternoon cocktail but was successfully springboarded into "history" by Pete Madison and his Reunion Committee.

Participants — many accompanied by their wives — began arriving Friday, burdened with cameras, baggage, and reminiscences. As expected, there was more grey hair, yet surprisingly the faces were still those of Naḡsab, Weewak, Biak, Mindanao, Luzon, and Seoul.

They were met with a full schedule of activities, ranging from cock-



PETE MADISON

tail parties and Sunday-morning brunch to an air-base tour and banquet.

For the most, highpoint of the planned activities was on Saturday afternoon when, in the peaceful and secluded atmosphere of the world-famed Fliers' Chapel of the

Mission Inn, bronze wings in memory of Maj. Thomas McGuire, the group's Medal of Honor recipient and most famous ace, were added to the chapel's Famous Fliers' Wall — to join those of Gen. Hap Arnold and a score of other aviation "giants."

Following the ceremony for Major McGuire, a similar set of wings in honor of the group itself was affixed to the wall, making the 475th Fighter Group the first group to be honored as a unit at the chapel.

For some reunion participants, memories of the sights and sounds of a military air base were freshened, as the entire group toured March Air Base on Saturday, had lunch in the Officers' Club, and again crawled in, around and over aircraft.

Tony LeVier, a Lockheed vice president and test pilot of the twin-boomed P-38 flown by the group, and Kelly Johnson, the P-38's de-

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SCENE At The REUNION

Col. Frank Nichols, unit veteran and now commander of the 833rd Air Division at Seymour-Johnson AFB, North Carolina, was responsible for brief envy in eyes of many participants when he touched down at March AFB in a USAF F-105, while former wing mates watched.

* * *

Sporting a giant, red mustache and the "same old twinkle," Lt. Col. Red Herman stayed up late to talk about Vietnam. Stateside once more, he is flying F-5s in the skies over Williams Field and confides that "when they take the throttle out of my hand, I quit."

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The big-band sound of the famed March AFB band, as it played a medley of songs, including the Air Force song, lifted everyone to their feet at the Wing Hanging ceremonies and was responsible for sudden, unaccountable lumps in the throats of many. To Bob Anderson, busy throughout the three days with flashgun and camera, it keyed the entire reunion.

* * *

Lending unexpected beauty to an event which might be aptly described as "a gathering of angels," scores of wives of unit veterans joined in the fun, climbing in and over aircraft at March AFB as though they were born to the sky.

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Dredged up from almost "forgotten" years, men in countless small groups at the First Night cocktail party found their techniques of "talking with their hands" had not completely escaped them, as they refought aerial battles of another year...sometimes in hot pursuit, sometimes hotly pursued.

* * *

Wayne Crabtree and Swede Holdren, still sticking so closely together it looked as though they had invented glue, traded stories with Col. John Loisel, who came to the reunion from his station in Hawaii. Crabtree and Holdren were among the many who worked hard to make the reunion a success.

* * *

Bascom Jones Jr., head of the news bureau at Hughes, seemed to be working for Lockheed as he handed out silver P-38 tie-tacks to participants, while Pete Madison, reunion chairman, journeyed from group to group — and as master of ceremonies at the banquet — proved that his recall of those wild days of long ago "was almost total."

* * *

Looking no older than he did in the days of Nipa wine and Three Feathers, Lt. Col. Bo Reeves was still as trim as a 20-year-old, reported he is currently in the program to check out in the Lockheed YF-12.

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Bill Grady, Al Nelson, Tom Sims, Johnny Pietz, Jim Moreing, and Calvin Wire argued the accomplishments and merits of the three squadrons, while Jim Barnes, Bob Weary and Seymour Prell looked on.

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Bob Hall, resident host for the reunion, briefly interrupted his decoration efforts to escort participants through his Mission Inn art studio, and found he couldn't resist sketching the fiery red mustache of Red Herman.

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Allan Mayer, Frank Richie, Joe Thornton, and Ed O'Neil, peeking into the cockpit of the B-52 at March, counted the instruments and shook their heads in silent wonder.





'Many-Splendored Things'

Participants' Wives Play Active Role

Providing a welcomed and a "many-splendored" touch of beauty, animation, and interest to the 20-year Satans' Angels reunion, many wives of the unit's veterans accompanied their husbands to the historic Mission Inn to take an active part in reunion activities.

reunion chairman and unofficial hostess for the distaff side, credits much of the behind-the-scenes' success of the three-day activities to the widespread participation and obvious enthusiasm of the wives.

"Almost without exception, the wives I talked to," she said, "are looking forward with equal enthusiasm to the 1967 reunion in Dayton."

Mrs. Pete Madison, wife of the

More About

Dayton Reunion

asked every former member to help in making contacts.

Individuals were asked to write Madison with the names and addresses of any former members they might know. Their letters should be sent to Pete Madison in care of the Fred Hensen Co., 144 S. Mission Rd., Los Angeles.

"Mark your calendar for late September," Madison said, "and set aside a special piggy-bank. We would like to double the attendance in 1967."

More About

Wing Ceremony

signer, highlighted the Saturday-night banquet with films and stories about the single-place fighter.

Madison, as master of ceremonies at the banquet, used the occasion to excerpt comments from the wires and letters sent by many who couldn't attend, and seemingly the magic of each name triggered ever-louder applause.

Personal Photo Packet?

Special souvenir packets of reunion photographs, as well as particular enlargements of the many photographs taken during the activities, may be obtained at a small cost which covers expenses from

the official 1965 reunion photographer.

Identify the photographs which interest you, and address your requests to Bob Anderson, 1261 Coolidge Ave., Tracy, Calif.



20 YEAR REUNION

475TH FIGHTER GROUP

Limited Enlargements Available Free

Former Satans' Angels, who participated in the 20-year reunion of the group at Riverside and who signed the souvenir plaque (see above), have been offered a free

8-by-10 enlargement of the memento for their den. Requests should be addressed to Bascom Jones Jr., 1184 Valencia Dr. West, Fullerton, Calif.



SATANS' ANGELS
144 S. Mission Rd.
Los Angeles, Calif.