

WFO/1155th TOS REUNION **NEWSLETTER**

P.O. BOX 1035, NORTH HIGHLANDS, CA. 95660-1035

VOL. 4, No. 1

JANUARY 1985

BY THE TIME YOU RECEIVE THIS NEWSLETTER WE WILL HAVE JUST A HALF YEAR BEFORE THE 1985, WFO/1155TH REUNION. A THOUGHT OCCURRED WHEN I BEGAN TO WRITE THAT A REUNION, BY DEFINITION, MEANS TO BECOME ONE AGAIN! JUDGING FROM THE RESPONSE FROM THOSE OF YOU WHO ATTENDED OUR LAST GET-TOGETHER AND THE ENTHUSIASM THAT IS BUILDING FOR JUNE, I BELIEVE THAT WE ARE GOING TO HAVE TO COME UP WITH A NEW NAME BECAUSE WE ARE ALREADY A UNION. WE ARE ALL PART OF A GREAT ORGANIZATION WITH GREAT PEOPLE AND THE INFLUENCE OF THE ASSOCIATION HAS BECOME A PART OF OUR LIVES. MAYBE WE SHOULD CALL IT THE BIENNIAL CONVENTION, OR THE TWO-YEAR BLAST. WHATEVER WE CALL IT, IT IS GOING TO BE GRAND TO BE BACK TOGETHER WITH OUR OLD FRIENDS AND RELIVE SOME OF THE THINGS WE DID WHILE IN THE "OUTFIT"; MAYBE WE'LL EVEN TELL A FEW WAR STORIES. YOUR PLANNING COMMITTEE HAS BEEN ACTIVE FOR THE PAST EIGHTEEN MONTHS AND WE HAVE A SUPER FACILITY FOR OUR FUNCTION. OUR BANQUET WILL BE HELD IN THE APTLY NAMED THUNDERBIRD ROOM OF THE RED LION INN. THIS IS THE FINEST HOTEL IN THE CENTRAL VALLEY. WE WILL HAVE A GREAT PROGRAM AND LOTS TO DO FROM TOURS, TO GOLF, TO QUIET TIMES JUST TO GET TOGETHER WITH YOUR OLD BUDDIES AND FRIENDS. I AM LOOKING FORWARD TO SEEING ALL OF YOU AT THE RED LION IN JUNE '85.

LEW HORNE, CHAIRMAN, REUNION '85 COMMITTEE

More information regarding hotel accommodations. The principal festivities will be at the Red Lion Inn, including a Thursday evening cocktail hour, the big Saturday night banquet, and the Sunday Brunch. Reservation cards for the Red Lion will be mailed to everyone on the mailing list on or about 1 March. Rates at the Red Lion are \$52 single and \$62 double. Another good choice for lodgings is the Sierra Inn at Auburn Blvd. (Highway 80) and Fulton Ave. (about two miles from the Red Lion). The rates are only \$38 including a couple of drink tickets and a free buffet breakfast. Contact Trisha Milstead, Sierra Inn, 2600 Auburn Blvd, Sacramento CA 95821, or call toll free: (800) 255-3050. This is a special rate arranged by Trisha (ex 1155th wife) so let her know that you are attending the reunion.

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UNDER THE WEATHER...Just a note in passing: Bob Heaviside, Lt Col Retired, one of the early pioneers of the Western Field Office, is a bit under the weather. Bob hasn't been feeling well for the past few months and, at this writing, is spending most of his time in bed. He would surely appreciate hearing from some of his old friends and acquaintances who would want to wish him well and a speedy recovery. See roster for his address.

As you can tell from the previous reports, the Reunion Committee has shifted from low to high gear and things are really getting busy here in River City! Letters keep filling our mail box, and we sure do appreciate them. Someone is looking for a buddy, someone is telling us about a buddy they found through the roster, someone is telling us about someone's whereabouts whose name appeared in the "Whatever Happened To" list, some of the news tells us about the loss of a friend. All of the letter writers are enthusiastic and looking forward to June! Keep your letters coming.

°From Virginia, George Brown writes, "I was delighted to receive the Reunion Newsletter in the mail. Loraine and I have been going over it again and again since it came. We found names of friends, most of whom we have not seen for many years. Sorry we missed the '83 Reunion, but knew nothing about it. Of course we will plan to attend the next one 'the Lord willin' and the creek don't rise!' We don't know who gave you our address, but are grateful for it. Enclosed is the \$5 we owe for continued receipt of the Newsletter, plus one more \$5 because we know you can use it - perhaps for someone who forgot his. Keep the Newsletter coming - we are looking forward to more of the same... Oops! Pen slipped and check is for \$15 - use the other \$5 for inflation." (Ed. note: George, thanks for the \$5, plus the \$5 "'cause you know we can use it" ... and the \$5 for the slip o' the pen. Yes, we can use it!)

°Bill Braukman says: "Thanks for the many hours of time and effort that you (all) have put into this project. We really enjoyed looking over the roster you provided. It certainly brought back alot of fond memories."

°A nice letter from Paul Branch tells us: "My name is listed in the 'Whatever Happened To' list. 'Branch, Paul' just popped up out of the woodwork. My wife and I are living in the Sunshine State of Florida about 30 miles north of Walt Disney World. Add my name to your mailing list. My check for \$5 is enclosed. Also, please add Edsel Ward to the mailing list. Glad I met Bob Craft on amateur radio and found you people."

°Randy Beaty wanted us to know that "I have received the "NEWSLETTER" and was very pleased to get all the good information. I made copies and sent them to Richard Laurie and Ted Rapp. I also enclosed a note and told them to send you five dollars ... ASAP. Whatever happened to John Blouin, Steve Wilson, or Richard Petrucco? I expect you could use another few shekels from me since I haven't sent any money for over a year, thus I'm enclosing \$5 to continue me on the list. I retired from active duty last October and am working in nuclear weapon effects and underground nuclear testing in Nevada. I was at McClellan from July 1959 - Mar 60, Team 407 - Mar 60-Apr 64, and back at McClellan Apr 64-Jul 67."

°"Please accept my thanks for putting me on your mailing list and my appreciation for the efforts of everyone on the Reunion Committee. You have provided further evidence that 1155th people are special. I spent most of my 20 years in AFTAC (1155th - 1963-66, DET 292 - 66-68, AFTAC HQ-68-74, 1155th - 74-78, and DET 095 - 78-81.) and have yet to be associated with a finer group of people. I am now a division director for Science Applications, Inc., and business kept me from the 83 Reunion but it will not keep me for the '85 Reunion." Larry Coe, we look forward to seeing you again!

°Larry Clark reminds us that he was "assigned to the 1155th from Oct 65 to Oct 72, Oct 75-Jun 78, and Jul 80 until retirement Feb 83. Please keep me informed by placing my name on your mailing list ... \$5 enclosed to cover mailing and handling costs. Thanks." Our "thanks" to you Larry.

°From Bob Craft (W6FAH, Stockton CA) comes the information that Paul Branch (in Tavares, FL) still has his Amateur Call Sign, K3NON. Bob passed on the info about our upcoming Reunion and added this: "By-the-way, there were many ham radio operators in the 1155th! Where are they? I'm active on 80-40-20-15-10 meter bands, and on 2M and 450MHz! Perhaps you could ask around and let me know." No sooner said than done. Hope you hear from many of your friends. Pass the good word about the Reunion. Bob also added Tom Sanderson's name to the mailing list. Incidentally, Bob is Department Manager, Clinical Eng. at St. Joseph Hospital in Stockton CA.

°Carey Dobbins Asked us to add Bob Lewis and Terrell Cantrell to our list and we have done just that. He also noted that, "I really appreciate the Newsletter and look forward to our June trip to Sacramento. Pass the word, any of the old alumni that pass through Nashville - give me a call - got lots of room."

°Art Dahlgren let us know, "I did not attend the '83 Reunion but received a copy of the Newsletter from Clent Bailey. I am interested in attending the '85 Reunion. Enclosed \$5 for the Newsletter." Thanks Art, see you in June!

°"To All You Reunion People, I have enjoyed hearing so much of so many. I met and knew alot of you from 1956-68. Keep up the good work and the Newsletter. Several months ago someone asked about the Whistling Midgets and I found some pictures from the ole 1009th SWS, thought you might like a set ... Probably taken Oct-Nov 56. Does anyone remember? Keep up the good work." Thank you for sending the pictures Howard Foster, I had our darkroom technician look at them and, unfortunately, there is no way to reproduce them for the Newsletter. However, I have passed them on to our Historian, so they will be available for people to see when they are visiting the Technical Operations Division (the old 1155th). L.G.

°"Dear Lois, I sure want to stay on the WFO mailing list. Enclosed is \$5, appreciate the reminder. Claude Godwin." Thanks for the \$5, we want you to stay on our mailing list.

°From Jim and Jeanne Hochstetler wanted to know "How in the world did you find us? Yes, we plan on attending (the Reunion). It's the first we heard of this gathering, glad to be included. Hoping to see some of the old familiar faces ... keep us informed and add our name to your list ... Will retire from Ford Aerospace, NASA after 20 years, now in Recording, Unit Supervisor. Will retire again in '85. Please add M.R. Patterson to your list." (By-the-way, congrats on your 40th Anniversary, Jim and Jeanne!)

°Jim Guthrie writes, "I particularly enjoyed seeing the picture of Col. Al Pavik in the last Newsletter, since he was my boss part of my time in the 1155th. He was a Major then, and I was a 1st Lt. He doesn't appear to have aged as much as I have. After leaving AFTAC in '72 I was in Security Service (now Electronic Security Command) for 3 years, then Det 2, 2762nd Logistics Sq., (AFLC) Texas for 6 years. Now in the Office of Special Projects, HQAFLC at Wright-Patterson. Thanks for the Newsletter, glad you found me. I've enclosed \$5 for future Newlsetters. If at all possible I plan to attend in June. If anyone is ever in the Dayton area, please look me up."

°"Hi there! As one of the early members of WFO (Oct 51-Jun 56) and the 1009th Special Weapons Squadron, I'm very interested in your reunion plans for '85 ... the roads should be clear and we should be able to get 'over the hill' with no problem. Have thought many times of the many friends and acquaintances acquired during the great 5½ years spent with one of the most elite organizations. (Ed. note: I love to hear that!) in the Air Force, and have even considered attempting to organize a reunion on my own of all the old timers. Am glad someone is doing it! Do you have many of the old 1009th people on your mailing list?" (Ed. note: Do we? See roster for Will's address, or let us hear from you. The above letter was received from William C. Hutchison, Gardnerville NV.

°Jim Hall, in Granbury TX, wants us to know, "You folks are doing great. June 6-9, '85 has been on our calendar for months. Sounds like this reunion will be even better than the Great '83 Reunion. Count on us!" (We sure appreciate that enthusiasm Jim. L.G.)

°Jim Rutledge, writing from New Mexico, wanted us to know, "I appreciated receiving the Newsletter. It must be difficult to find the old gang since we have scattered to the four winds." (Jim, the names are pouring in from all corners from the "old gang". Keep 'em coming!)

°We attended the last reunion at the Holdiay Inn and really enjoyed it. Looking forward to the next one. Orville and Carol Pritchard, North Highlands CA" (We're glad to have another confirmation.)

°John Bartholf in Alexandria, VA is "Looking forward to '85."

°Tom Ware, (Ware Racing Assts., Ltd., in Aurora CO), sends his check and a "roster of people living in this area and some elsewhere." (Editor's note: "Thanks, Tom, that was some list!")

°Bill Taylor, Ohio, shortened our "Whatever Happened To" list by one name, he filled us in on Gilbert Schmidt who lives nearby us, in Placerville CA. He added, "Gib' was with Team 101, the forerunner of WFO, we had a unit at Camp Kohler, north of McClellan, 1952. Bill Johnston was the Commander. (My God, that was 32 years ago)...the Newsletter ...is indeed enjoyable."

°"Thanks for the excellent job you're doing. Hopefully I'll see you at the Reunion ...please add Robert C. Webb (Indiana) to the list." Thanks, Don Winstead, consider it done. L.G.

°Enclosed is my check and will hope to see you in June. J.G. Silliman, TX.

°In response to our Tour Questionnaire we heard from George Antonio, who is interested in the River City Queen cruise. "We are still planning on attending the '85 Reunion - am planning on it and hope the Air Force (my present boss) will let me off this time." George is in Warner Robins, GA. We sure hope he makes it too. L.G.

°We enjoyed reading about everyone. The reunion was obviously a great success. Hope we can make the next one. We appreciate your efforts in connection with arranging and putting on these reunions. Sincerely, Robert Belville, LA." (We have a terrific team working on the Reunion. L.G.)

°Ed Carfora is also looking forward to '85, "Enclosed is my donation for the annual newsletter. I understand there will be a reunion in June. I will be looking forward to it. Hope to see you there."

°Many of you will remember Marian Chambers (who is now Mrs. Robert Jordon). She sent a very interesting and newsy letter. "Good job on the latest newsletter! Really enjoyed the pictures and additional names you have acquired. I have located Rex Clarke for you - he was sitting in a doctor's office up here (Tahoe). He was on the softball team and is now a minister of the Church of the Nazarene. He will also have other names to add to the list. (Editor's note: Haven't heard from him yet, Marian.) Reunion '85 sounds great...Request you do something for me. I am working on a history of the squadron starting in 1960 when I first was hired in the lab by Major Weiford. I would like to have input from anyone, a short paragraph of a memorable time, event, game party or whatever comes to mind. The early 60's were a time of great activity, pressure, heartaches and triumphs. I would also like to request that people write or call me...if they are up at Lake Tahoe."

°Tom Graffam got tired of the snow and "migrated" to California. "Welcome back Tom, to the sunshine - would you believe rain?" He went on to say, "I think these reunions are a great idea but as yet have not been able to attend one. I hope it will be possible for us to make the next one. Your newsletter is a great idea and I appreciate your work in putting it together. Five dollars is little enough to keep informed about the greatest outfit in the world."

°It pays to advertise, or so they say. "I noticed in the DAV magazine that WFO is planning a reunion in June. Although I was not assigned to WFO, I was with the parent organization in Washington and the Central Field Office from the mid 50's until the early 60's. I am sure many of my friends will attend this reunion...I would like to attend and renew old acquaintances. Would you let me know if this would be possible?" Richard Hennessey, we'd be pleased to have you and so would your friends.

°Claude James made a point of the "small world" we live in, "While in Germany recently I happened to meet Bill Giesler, former Det 327 Commander. He wants very much to get on your mailing list." O.K. Claude, he has been added, and he will receive this issue.

°"Here's a check to cover two years. John R. Burke." Thanks. LG

°George Barnes wants to be included on the mailing list, he says, "I was a member of the 1155th Tech Ops Sqd before I retired in 1968. I would like to attend the reunion. We look forward to seeing you, George."

°Thanks to Dave Kellokoski for sending J.W. Guthrie's name and Lawrence Metz' new address. Appreciate the \$5 for the Newsletter too, Dave.

°More word-of-mouth: "I did not know of the previous reunion until I was advised by Dan Trainor and I recently received a copy of the Newsletter from Randy Beatty...I worked for the Bostik Division of Emhart Corp. for 10 years after leaving the Air Force, as an analytic chemist, polymer chemist and product manager. Am currently working for a manufacturer's rep and distributor in Mass. as a technical sales rep. I hope to be able to make the '85 reunion. Getting together with old friends with whom many enriching experiences were shared is always great. Norm LaFontaine."

Time is growing short to locate the following "missing in action" before the Great '85 Reunion. Do you know the whereabouts of any of the following? Please let us know, and tell them about the reunion in June.

Cliff Giles would like to know if anyone can tell him how to reach Col. Fred Westfall, head of the lab about '69/70. You can reach Cliff by calling 800-545-7964.

Lew Horne said that Rex Riley was last heard of flying in Viet Nam, that was back in the '60's. Anyone know his whereabouts?

WHATEVER HAPPENED TO . . . ?

- | | | |
|------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------|
| Albridge, Roy | Glasel, Jay | Petrucco, Richard |
| Bailey, Joseph A. | Gomes, Al | Pitcher, Jack |
| Ball, Steve | Gontang, Allen | Pitstick, Jerry |
| Barnett, Miles | Gunther, Wayne | Raines, Carl |
| Barron, Tom | Hamilton, John | Reed, Frank |
| Bartone, Vince | Hansen, Ralph | Reed, Jim |
| Berta, Michael | Hart, John W. | Richards, Ken |
| Blackmon, Tommy | Hoffman, Nils | Riley, Rex |
| Blouin, John | Holloway, Jim | Ruha, Mike |
| Braa, John | Horrell, Merrit B. (Bud) | Rubincam, Richard H. |
| Bragg, "Spike" | Howarter, Harold | Rush, Bill |
| Brewer, John | Hunt, Sheldon | Sanderson, George |
| Castleton, Ross | Jackson, Roger | Schmidt, Bob |
| Chance, Kenneth P. | Jones, Ralph B. | Schmidt, George |
| Clark, John G. | Kasperski, Jim | Scott, William |
| Clarke, Rex | Kearfoot, Joe | Seegmiller, Dave |
| Collins, Ken | Lattiolois, R. | Sepylyak, Mike |
| Craig, Robert | Legg, Art | Sexton, Bruce |
| DeBellis, Leonard | Levesque, Robert | Sharpless, Les |
| Demaris, Reggie | Longstaff, Tom | Simmons, Carl M. |
| Dimalante, Tom | Lucas, Jerry | Slayton, Bob |
| Driscoll, Kelly | Manning, William | Smith, John A. |
| Ellis, Jack | Marquez, Walter D. | Snipes, William R. |
| Facino, John | McCarter, Don E. | Sumner, Dean |
| Fife, Jack | McCrackin, Tom | Tiches, Tim |
| Fischer, Fred (or Ted) | Miller, "Duke" | Vicidomino, CMS |
| Friday, Lt. | Perkins, Mike | Westfall, Fred |
| | | Willison, Earl |

A FWL
1718 GILFSIDE DR WINTER PK. 32792
2091 BAIRD COODA 804 3243

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I thought retirees stayed put; however, I feel like I am in quick-sand trying to keep up with the "No Longer At This Address" - "No Forwarding Address", and all the address corrections returned by the Post Office. If you are anticipating a move, please add WFO/1155th Sec'ty/Treasurer, P.O. Box 1035, North

Highlands, CA 95660-1035, to your mailing address correction list. We want you to receive all the Reunion '85 information on time! Also, if you are sending in a friend's name be sure the address and Zip is correct (and please don't forget the \$5 donation for mailing expenses). Thanks for remembering. See you in June!

Lois Gaddis, Sec'ty/Treasurer

The following list continues to grow, while it saddens us, we appreciate your forwarding this information so we can keep our Alumni informed of the passing of our friends.

LEST WE FORGET

- | | |
|----------------------------------|--|
| Mrs. W. M. Binston, 1983 | William L. Jernigan, 1983 |
| James R. Bremser, 1983 | James W. Langley, 1983 |
| Al Connors | Mrs. Tom (Loretta "Lou") Ramrath, 1984 |
| Mrs. William Cowan | Dr. Irvine J. Russell, 1981 |
| Wallace Crocker, 1983 | Fred Sherman, 1974 |
| Arthur E. Farnham, 1984 | Fred Stoss |
| David Gaddis, 1982 | Mrs. Clifford (Johnnie) Summers, 1984 |
| Troy Gaskins, 1983 | Paul Werner, 1975 |
| Mrs. Ed (Loris) Gieselmann, 1983 | Steve Wilson |
| George A. Gordon, 1979 | Youngblood, Jack |
| James W. Harris, 1977 | |

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PLEASE NOTE: To keep a record of your donation for the Newsletter a code has been devised that indicates the amount and date of your last donation. It appears on the upper right hand corner of your mailing label.

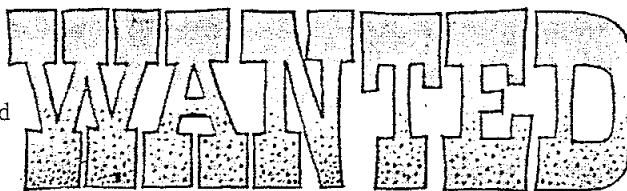
EXAMPLE:

LOIS M. GADDIS 7763 UPLANDS WAY CITRUS HEIGHTS, CA 95610	5 12-82	→ This indicates that <u>5</u> (dollars) was received <u>December 1982.</u>
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In order to cover the costs of printing and mailing we ask for a donation of \$5 annually. Thanks for your generous support. Please make checks payable to: WFO/1155th Reunion Committee Treasurer and mail to P.O. Box 1035, North Highlands, CA 95660-1035.

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The Technical Operation Division (formerly 1155 TECH OPS SQ, formerly WFO) has established an historical committee. The committee's charter is



to search and collect items which can be used to establish an historical repository/museum. The committee is soliciting former members of the organization

who may possess photographs and/or documents they think may be useful as a piece of the organizations history. If you think you may have an item(s) which may be of interest to the committee, send to Technical Operations Division, ATTN: Lt Col Paquette/DLR or Lt Col Trytten/LGE, McClellan AFB, CA 95652. If at all possible the committee would prefer not to have to return the item. However, if the owner desires to have the item returned an attempt will be made to have it reproduced and returned.