



THE 380TH BOMB GROUP ASSOCIATION
5th AF - RAAF

AFFECTIONATELY KNOWN AS

The Flying Circus



NEWSLETTER #37

Winter 2008/2009



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(to be mailed in April 2009)

HISTORIANS

Bob Alford
Glenn R. Horton, Jr.
Gary L. Horton

HISTORY PROJECT

Theodore J. Williams

2009 REUNION COORDINATOR

Barb Gotham

LOCATION: Savannah, Georgia

DATES: October 14-18, 2009

NEWSLETTERS -

WEBPAGES - FINANCIAL

Barbara J. Gotham
Phone: 765/463-5390
Email: bjgotham@gmail.com

HAPPY NEW YEAR

IN MEMORIAM -- THOMAS HUNT

The 380th Bomb Group Association lost one of its founding members on November 11, 2008.

Thomas Myers “Tom” Hunt was an American petroleum industry executive who was chairman of Hunt Petroleum and an advisor to his uncle H. L. Hunt, the founder of the family dynasty.



Hunt was born in Pana, Illinois. He served during World War II in the Pacific with the 380th Bomb Group of the United States Army Air Corps in the Pacific Theater. Hunt flew on the first bomber from the 380th to land in Japan, and flew on a B-24 Liberator representing the 380th during a flyover of Tokyo Bay to mark the Japanese surrender on the USS Missouri.

Hunt attended the University of Arkansas, where he studied chemical engineering, but at his uncle Herbert’s suggestion, he worked for the family oil interests in Wyoming, North Dakota and in Montana’s Williston Basin. He was ultimately assigned to manage the Hunt family operations in Louisiana.

Hunt played a major role in the negotiations of the June 2008 acquisition of Hunt Petroleum by Fort Worth, Texas-based XTO Energy for \$4.186 billion. Tom Hunt served as the trustee for the family trusts of Margaret Hunt Hill and Hassie Hunt which each owned half of Hunt Petroleum.

Hunt spoke at the October 2008 unveiling of plans the Tom Hunt Energy Hall to be located at the Museum of Nature & Science’s new location in the Victory Park development. The name recognizes a contribution of \$10 million made to the museum by Hunt Petroleum in 2005. (See story on next page.)

Part of a clan that The New York Times described as “a family of great egos,” Tom Hunt was a plain-living bachelor, who worked out of a sparse office and answered his own phone. He lived in a modest townhouse in University Park, Texas, and enjoyed gardening and making nut candy.

Hunt died at age 85 on November 11, 2008, in Dallas at the Baylor University Medical Center. The cause of death was leukemia.

Tom was a staple at our 380th Reunions, conducting our member meetings and guiding us with his firm but gentle hand. He had planned on attending our 2008 Reunion, but had to cancel shortly beforehand due to his health. He will be sorely missed by us all.

If you have any thoughts about Tom or photos of him to share with our members for a memorial page in the next newsletter, please send them to Barb Gotham.



2004 Reunion at Boston



2006 Reunion, Washington DC



2005 Reunion at San Diego

TOM HUNT ENERGY HALL

Museum of Nature & Science Unveils Plans for the Tom Hunt Energy Hall at Victory Park Facility in Dallas

DALLAS, Oct. 23 /PRNewswire/ — With a “goal to create the best energy hall in the world,” officials from the Museum of Nature & Science today unveiled plans for the new Tom Hunt Energy Hall, which will become a signature exhibit area in the new Perot Museum of Nature & Science at Victory Park in downtown Dallas. Groundbreaking for the new facility is expected to begin in 2009.

“The Tom Hunt Energy Hall will explore every kind of energy resource found in nature, and it will delve into how humans have used science and technology throughout history to develop that energy,” said Nicole Small, CEO of the Museum of Nature & Science. “As we confront critical energy issues now and in the future, the Hall’s purpose becomes even more relevant. Our hope is that people will look to the Museum for the latest developments on everything from alternative energy sources to conservation tips, to the implications of energy at regional, national and global levels.”

The Tom Hunt Energy Hall, named in honor of Hunt Petroleum Chairman Tom Hunt, recognizes the \$10 million early leadership gift that Hunt Petroleum made to the Museum in 2005 to move the Expansion Project forward. World-class and Texas-sized, the new 6,500-square-foot gallery will be dedicated to telling the rich geological and historical stories of nature’s energy sources and exploring how science and technology are used to capture the vast array of traditional and alternative energy resources. It also will focus on contemporary energy issues and challenges facing society today.

To make the exhibits stimulating, fun and educational, the Museum will use state-of-the-art video; 3-D computer animation; thrilling, lifelike simulation; hands-on activities; interactive kiosks and dioramas; energy IQ quizzes; tabletop landscapes; animated music videos; high-resolution, computer-generated flyovers; and more. The exhibits will be accessible and user friendly for everyone from preschoolers to lifelong learners.

The Tom Hunt Energy Hall, located adjacent to the Museum’s Dynamic Earth Hall, will include six main galleries: the Geology Gallery, the Drilling & Production Gallery, the Barnett Shale Gallery, the Electrical Power Generation & Transmission Gallery, the Alternative Energy Sources Gallery, and the Future Energy Challenges Gallery. Also on tap is the North Texas Energy Hall of Fame, a tribute to the pioneers in the local industry – spanning the early years of the 20th century to the Barnett Shale developments to the alternative energy discoveries being made in North Texas today.

“The Tom Hunt Energy Hall will be more than a state-of-the-art exhibition hall, but also serve as a focal point for all energy-related events in North Texas – from distinguished lecture series, town hall meetings, public forums and seminars, to youth education programs, professional society meetings and other industry-related functions,” said Frank-Paul King, chairman of the Museum’s Board of Trustees. “If the topic is energy, the ‘place to go’ will be the new Tom Hunt Energy Hall at the Perot Museum of Nature & Science.”

The Perot Museum of Nature & Science will be constructed on a 4.7-acre site at the corner of Woodall Rodgers Freeway and Field Street adjacent to Victory Park in downtown Dallas. In January 2008, the Museum named 2005 Pritzker Prize Laureate Thom Mayne of Morphosis as architect for the new facility.

For more information, please go to <http://www.natureandscience.org/>



LETTER REGARDING TUSCON REUNION

Veterans and Families,

It was a privilege and a pleasure to meet and talk with the 380th Veterans and their families at the 2008 reunion. This event was a great success, due to Barbara and Doug Gotham and Pat Carnevale. Their efforts should be applauded by all of us. I especially want to thank Dexter Baker, Sr. It was his idea and desire to have a presentation about the history of the 380th at the members' meeting—especially for the younger family members who may not be very familiar with the 380th BG and its history (or the B-24 Liberator). I hope everyone enjoyed it and maybe learned some history they didn't know. I also hope the B-24 video was able to convey just a tiny bit of what it was like to fly in that aircraft. Keep in mind, my flight was only 30 minutes, in clear warm weather, at about 4000 feet altitude, and no one was shooting at us! Now imagine extending that flight to about 10 hours, at 10000 feet, freezing temperatures, cramped conditions and you are trying to destroy a target on the ground below you while defending yourselves against enemy aircraft and ground fire that are trying their very best to kill you! If you ever get an opportunity to take a flight aboard a B-24, take it!!

My thanks also goes to Glenn Horton and several other Veterans, who alerted me to a few "inaccuracies" in the history and offered some suggestions and additions. The presentation I sent Barbara and sent to all who had asked for a copy is a corrected and somewhat expanded version of what I presented at the meeting. Both the presentation (in both PowerPoint and PDF) and the DVD video I made of my 2008 flight aboard the Collings Foundation B-24, "Witchcraft" is available free to anyone who desires a copy. Email me at: filmxtra@netzero.net, or contact Barbara Gotham.

This reunion in Tucson was especially meaningful to me and my sister, Diana. Not only because Tucson is where the 380th BG began, but because our parents were married in the chapel at Davis-Monthan AFB, February, 1943.

Sadly, the 380th BG Association lost a great and kind friend and benefactor with the passing of Tom Hunt. I am grateful and privileged to have met and been able to talk with him at the reunions in 2006 and 2007. He will be greatly missed, as will all of the Veterans who are no longer with us.

Finally, all of you 380th vets and families with stories and photos of their service during WW2, PLEASE, PLEASE record them and send them to Barbara to publish in the Newsletters. We all need to share and preserve this history!

Again, thank you all.

Bill Shek, Jr.

2008 REUNION PHOTOS

ATTENDEES

528th Squadron

Bill Shek & Diana Shek
Milt & Natalie Markowitz
Loyd Oaks & Bill Randall
Slim Powers & family
Peggy Vance Baker & Dean Baker
Viola Peterson & Gladys Brandt
Russ O'Day & family
Bill Bever
Bill & Alma Brew
Dexter Baker & family (9 members!)

529th Squadron

Carl Borgstrom & family (10 members!)
Lloyd Fry
Larry & Jeanne Farnum
Paul & Barbara Beilstein
Bud & Kathleen Offerle & Geoff Paddock
Harold Bock & Duane Bock
Irene Lanners & Jean Cator
Pete LaLena & family
Glenn & Gwen Horton
Donna Gioia & Laura Gioia

530th Squadron

Gene & Ruth Stadler
Janice & Frank Knafelc
Marvin Gardner & family (7 members!)
Cal & Joan Killingsworth
Bob Rhoden & Rick Rhoden
Len Gronkowski & Richard Gronkowski
Wilma Page Lanier & Robert Lanier

531st Squadron

Marie Johnson & Doris Mitchell
Lyle & Clara Sears
Don & Phyllis Hurley
Ted & Isabel Williams
Joe Wells
George & Jessie Poy & family (15 members!)
Ed & Barbara Walford
Al & Paulette Jansen & family
Cecelia & Scott Meade & family
Gail & Marilyn Stephenson & family
Carlo & Netti Burdi & family
Norma & Nick Lamicella

Honorary Members

Barb & Doug Gotham
Pat Carnevale



Seated, L/R: Gail Stephenson, Cal Killingsworth, Harold Bock, Lloyd Fry, Bud Offerle, Dexter Baker, Carlo Burdi, Len Gronkowski, Slim Powers, Marvin Gardner
Standing, L/R: Al Jansen, George Poy, Gene Stadler, Loyd Oaks, Bill Brew, Pete LaLena, Milt Markowitz, Carl Borgstrom, Russ O'Day, Paul Beilstein, Ted Williams, Joe Wells, Larry Farnum, Ed Walford, Lyle Sears

2008 REUNION PHOTOS



Chapel at Davis Monthan AFB



B-24 at Pima Air & Space Museum

Ruth &
Gene
Stadler



View of mountains
from hotel, with hot
air balloon



Frank & Janice Knafelc



Cal & Joan Killingsworth



Marilyn & Gail Stephenson &
family



Picture of people taking pictures of the photo being taken of the vets present at the banquet



Joe Wells

2008 REUNION PHOTOS



Larry & Jeanne Farnum



Al Jansen & family



Back: Doug & Barb Gotham, Norma & Nick Lamicella
Front: Richard Rhoden, Harold & Duane Bock



Ed & Barbara Walford



Tom Powers, Kathleen McCullough,
Slim Powers, Jakarta Eckhart



Bill Shek & Diana Shek



Milt & Natalie
Markowitz



Clara & Lyle Sears

2008 REUNION PHOTOS



George & Jessie Poy & family



Len Gronkowski



Barbara & Paul Beilstein



Peggy Vance Baker
& Dean Baker



Alma & Bill
Brew



Marvin Gardner & family



Carl Borgstrom & family



Donna & Laura Gioia

2008 REUNION PHOTOS



Bill Randall & Loyd Oakes



Jean Cator & Irene Lanners



Cecelia, Scott, Megan & Christopher Meade



Glenn & Gwen Horton and Bill Bever



Geoff Paddock, Kathleen & Bud Offerle



Terry & Russ O'Day



Ted & Isabel Williams



Dexter Baker & family

2008 REUNION PHOTOS



Marie Johnson & Doris Mitchell



Benson Crew Members (Jansen, Poy, Stephenson)



Robert & Beverly Henes



Gladys Brandt & Viola Peterson



Carlo & Nettie Burdi



So, Slim, what's the secret?



Lloyd Fry

Additional photos will be available on the 380th website by end of January. Please check them out!

*Thanks to the following who sent in their photos:
Dr. George L. Poy, Scott Meade, Bill Bever, and Bill
and Diana Shek*

2009 REUNION INFORMATION

The 2009 Reunion will be held in Savannah, Georgia, October 14-18, 2009

Here are the arrangements made by Barb Gotham (2009 Reunion Coordinator) as of September 26, 2008, for the 2009 Reunion

Hotel: Holiday Inn Savannah West, 103 San Drive, Pooler, GA

Rooms rates:

One King Standard or Two Queen Standard: \$89.00/night (plus 13% room tax)

One King Suite or Two Queen Suite: \$99.00/night (plus 13% room tax)

Same rates apply 3 days prior and 3 days after our event

Hospitality room:

The hotel is providing us a large space off the lobby for our hospitality room for the duration of our Reunion.

Events:

Wednesday, October 14 - Afternoon registration, optional tours, dinner on own

Thursday, October 15 - Registration, optional tours, welcome dinner at hotel

Friday, October 16 - 11:00-11:30 AM, Memorial Service
at Chapel of the Fallen Eagles, at the 8th AF Museum
11:30 AM - 1:00 PM, Luncheon in the Art Gallery at the 8th AF Museum
1:00-3:00 PM, Group Tours of the Mighty Eighth Air Force Museum
Dinner on own

Saturday, October 17 - 9:00 AM, Group meeting/presentations at hotel
Afternoon, Optional tours
4:30 PM - Cocktails
5:00 PM - Dinner
6:30 PM - Dancing

Sunday, October 18 - Departure

NOTES:

By the date of our reunion in 2009, all guest rooms at the Holiday Inn will be smoke-free.

Trolley service is available from the hotel to downtown and midtown Savannah.

There are several trolley tour companies offering various sightseeing packages in Savannah: architecture, black heritage, ghosts, Civil War, land & sea, coastal heritage, maritime -- as well as walking and riverboat tours. Fort Pulaski, Old Fort Jackson, beaches, Hilton Head, and Tybee Island are nearby.

For those who attended the Tucson reunion, please note that there has been a change in the Friday schedule above from what you received in your packets: the group tours at the 8th AF museum will now be after lunch, rather than before the Memorial Service, to allow more time at the exhibits.

If you have any suggestions for optional group tours, etc., please contact Barb Gotham, the 2009 Reunion Coordinator.

FUTURE 380TH REUNIONS

*Please indicate below if you think the 380th should continue holding annual reunions
after the October 2009 Reunion:*

Yes _____

No _____

*If it is decided to continue the reunions, the following cities have expressed interest in hosting future
(2010 and/or 2011) 380th Reunions.*

Midwestern Cities

Oklahoma City, Oklahoma
St. Louis, Missouri
Omaha, Nebraska
Wichita, Kansas
Branson, Missouri

Western Cities

Colorado Springs, Colorado
Billings, Montana
Los Angeles, California
Denver, Colorado
Albuquerque, New Mexico

If you want to continue the reunions, please indicate your top two choices from each category above (Midwestern and Western) – remember, we alternate reunions between the East, West, and Midwest - that is, 2007 Midwest (Dayton OH), 2008 West (Tucson AZ), and 2009 East (Savannah GA).

My top two choices for Midwestern cities are:

1. _____

2. _____

My top two choices for Western cities are:

1. _____

2. _____

Comments:

Your Name: _____

Please return by **APRIL 15, 2009**, to Barbara Gotham, 130 Colony Road, West Lafayette, IN 47906-1209
or by email to: bjgotham@gmail.com

Questions: Phone: 765/463-5390 Cell: 765/412-5370 Or send email to bjgotham@gmail.com

MAIL CALL

Sat, Oct 11, 2008 at 7:23 PM

Barb

I have been trying for years to contact any of my former crew members from the 529 who served with Harvey Harrison's crew (39) with no success. Imagine my surprise when I came upon the letter from T/Sgt H M Gramblet who was a member of my crew. The letter appears in the Fall 2008 Newsletter, Newsletter #36 on the page headed YANK DOWN UNDER, JUNE 23, 1944. Gramblet was our radio operator. Is there any way you could put me in touch with him or let him know my e-mail address? I can be reached via e-mail at:

EilBurns@aol.com or my home address is William Burns, 137 Oak Street, Pittston, Pennsylvania 18640. My phone number is (570) 655-1555.

If you have a phone number, I would be happy to call him. I look forward to your response.

Billy Burns

H.M. Gramblet is not a current member of our association - if anyone knows his whereabouts, please contact Billy (with a copy to Barb Gotham).
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Sat, Oct 4, 2008 at 4:41 PM

Barbara,

Hi, I'm writing to you from the United Arab Emirates, current home of the 380th Air Expeditionary Wing. I'm also a former member of the 380th Bomb Wing while it was at Plattsburgh AFB NY until 1994.

Just so you know, we're putting together a heritage tent in our compound that will capture the expeditionary nature of the 380 BG. We've named it Fenton's, after Fenton Field in Australia, our unit's first overseas "expeditionary" home base. It was researching for our heritage tent that we came across your webpage.

I'll leave it at that for now, but I just wanted you to know that a. we're keeping the 380th name active and alive in today's warfight over here, and b. if there is anything in the way of (copies of) pictures, patches or any other paraphernalia, stories, etc you'd like to pass along somehow (we'll pay the freight), we'd be eager to find them a new home in the old unit.

I don't know if you confine yourself to just the WWII 380 BG, but I am the vice commander of the existing 380 AEW, and was a 2lt thru Capt at the 380 BW, later the 380 Air Refueling Wing at Plattsburgh. As such I'm the only one here who has been in the unit at two locations. As such I have an affinity for any 380th related information.

Thanks for your time and volunteer service,

Cheers,

Paul

PAUL R. MURPHY, Col, USAF

380 AEW/CV

Paul.Murphy@adab.afcent.af.mil

MAIL CALL

Fri, Oct 10, 2008 at 10:24 AM
B-24 Model from the 531st BS

Here's a model I had reproduced of a 531st BS, B-24J "Sultan's Daughter" which was my grandfather's. I used the pictures from your website. Thought you might like this!



" Nozz "

Major Jamie Moss, USAF
james.moss@sheppard.af.mil



From: Joyce Macdonald
Date: Nov 17

My father, James Parker Benton, passed on June 24, 2007, in Kansas City, Missouri. Parker, as we knew him, was assigned to the 380th, 530th squadron, Harkins crew (38), "The Sandra Kay," named after my sister. Doing some research, the "Sandra Kay" had the most raids, 130. My dad flew 53+ combat missions and 380 combat flight hours prior to being set down, then he flew non-combat until he rotated back to the States.

Question: How can I find out if there are any crew members still living that might have known him and flew with him???

If anyone knew James Parker Benson, please let Barb Gotham know, so she can pass the info to Joyce

Joyce Linda (Benton) Macdonald, daughter.

From: Keith and Ann Conrad <family.conrad@gmail.com>
Date: Mon, Dec 8, 2008 at 4:14 AM
Subject: Amazing Trail to 380th Fall 2008 Newsletter

My name is Keith Conrad and your 380th newsletter just provided a most amazing experience for me. I'm currently living in Lagos, Nigeria, and was contacted by my cousin to see if I had the photo of my father, Basil W. Conrad, standing in front of the B-24 bomber, the Golden Goose, with the ground support team. My cousin, a professor at Boston College, wanted the picture to use in a presentation for education conferences in Boston and Tokyo. Unfortunately, the picture is in storage, but I said I'd do a quick search and see if perhaps the picture might show up on the internet (I'm an optimist).

I quickly found your website and the roster listing for my father, but no luck with the picture in the main sections. As my optimism was waning, I noticed the newsletter section, clicked on the Fall 2008 issue and there it was in the Photo Gallery with comments provided by Dexter Baker. 'Gray' is actually my father! What a thrill that was for me and also my family. Dad passed away in 1987 and Mom this past Christmas Eve, but they must have been doing the steering yesterday. Thanks for making this little story possible and pass my thanks to Dexter Baker.

Keith



"MYSTERY" DRUMS AT FENTON FIELD

Fri, Oct 24, 2008 at 9:38 AM

Re: Fenton

Barb

Attached are photos that I saw at Fenton Field on my recent trip there. "Mystery Drums" -- maybe someone knows what they were used for, the center one had a chimney coming out of it, ones laying on the ground in Pic 1, It's located at the Fenton Airstrip Base Camp. Each corner drum had a hole cut out so as to whatever was in it could get through to the center drum, the holes were about 10 Inches wide X 8 Inches high. The concrete pad had something bolted down on it because the threaded studs 80mm long are sticking out of the raised concrete section.

Doug Tilley
Adelaide River , NT

An email went out to the 380th email list, asking if anyone knew what these "mystery" drums were. After much discussion about whether they were or were not latrines, this answer was received from Doc Doherty via Bill Shek.

Sat, Nov 29, 2008 at 1:22 PM

Re: Mystery Drums

Hi Barb,

I just received an email direct from Doc Doherty at Fenton about the "mystery" drums, which I have pasted below. Take care.

Bill Shek

Doc Doherty, Fenton Australia:

Hi Bill

Hope all's well, glad it went well in Tucson, yes the photo is of what 380th called "Latrines" Aussie word "Flaming Furies" or "Dunnies" were lit up with Petrol/Kero or Diesel Mix and burnt daily.

Centre 50 gal (Aussie 44 Gal) was married to outer drum, acted like a septic system a flu (airvent) in the centre was 6 to 10' to vent off smell (maybe?) a wooden seat was fitted. many of these exist at Fenton & Long & other sites. But only Fenton boasts two (2) that have a modification, where the metal protruding in vertical appears to have been some sort of backrest but it also meant all the guys sat face to face with feet on inner drum.



Next time you are here you should do a photo shoot on all the different varieties of "dunnies".

Regards
Doc

TAPS

*Day is done, gone the sun, from the lake, from the hill,
from the sky. All is well, safely rest, God is nigh.*

*Thanks and praise for our days 'neath the sun, 'neath
the stars, 'neath the sky. As we go, this we know
God is nigh.*



LEST WE FORGET

528th, Sheehan, Norma L., widow of Sherwood Sheehan, DOD November 5, 2008, Boca Raton, Florida, reported by John Annesser and Bud Offerle

529th, Beck, William Roman, Ground Staff, Engineering, DOD June 23, 2008, South Gate, California, returned newsletter

529th-RAAF, Carroll, John W., RCM Operator, Various Crews, DOD November 19, 2008, Blacktown, NSW, Australia, reported by his daughter, Penny Owen, and Milt Markowitz

529th-RAAF, Carroll, Valerie, wife of John W. Carroll, DOD May 29, 2008, Sydney, NSW, Australia, reported by her daughter, Penny Owen

529th, Lanners, Louis N., Jr., Flight Engineer, Kroes' Crew (56), DOD November 21, 2008, Houston, Texas, reported by his niece Jean Cator

530th, Babiarz, Chester S., Sr., Tail Gunner, Gardner Crew (78), DOD September 21, 2008, North Arlington, New Jersey, reported by his daughter, Charlotte Smaldone



530th, Benton, James Parker, Asst Flight Engineer, Gunner, Harkins' Crew (38), DOD June 24, 2007, Kansas City, Missouri, reported by his daughter, Joyce Macdonald

530th, Burt, Donald L., Gunner, Lewis' Crew (85), DOD March 14, 1990, reported by Gene Stadler

530th, Burt, Peggy, wife of Don Burt, DOD March 2, 2002, reported by Gene Stadler

530th, Matusz, Arnold J., Flight Engineer, Lewis' Crew (85), DOD August 1990, reported by Gene Stadler

530th, Stuckey, Algeon Lester, Radio Operator/Gunner, Udall Crew (63), DOD October 9, 2008, Sheridan, Arkansas, reported by his son, Paul Stuckey

531st, Hunt, Thomas M., Ground Staff, Operations, Clerk Typist, DOD November 11, 2008, Dallas, Texas, reported by Hunt Petroleum Co staff, Bill Bever, and others

Other, Brooks, Russ, 380th Australian Historian, DOD October 25, 2008, Beecroft, NSW, Australia, reported by Bob Alford