

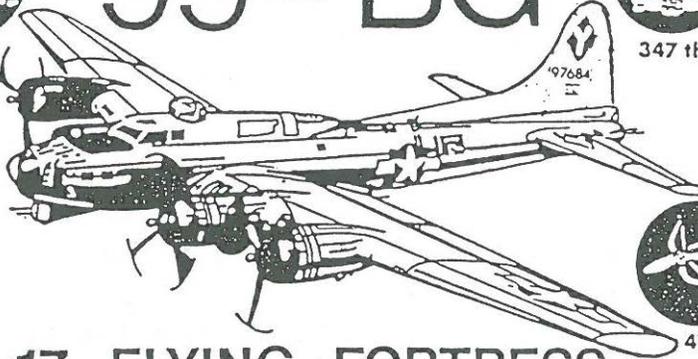
99th BG



346 th



347 th



348 th



416 th

B-17 FLYING FORTRESS

THE

99th Bomb Group Historical Society

NEWSLETTER

Vol. 11, No. 1

Jan. 1, 1991

Roster Edition

SOCIETY OFFICERS, 1990-1991
Same as for 1989-1990

PRESIDENT - BILL SMALLWOOD
TREASURER - WALTER BUTLER
SECRETARY - H.E. CHRISTIANSEN

VICE-PRESIDENT - FRED HUEGLIN
HISTORIAN - GEORGE F. COEN
EDITOR - GEORGE F. COEN



THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear George:

By coincidence an article appearing in last Sunday's local newspaper here in Florida has led to answering a long-standing open item I had been hoping to include in my book. In the fall of 1943 our crew was stationed at the Avon Park, Florida Bombing Range. On a 24 hour pass several of us decided to take the train to West Palm Beach, mainly in search of female companionship at a local hotel known to be patronized by service women. To this day I can picture the hotel; however, the name of it had long passed from memory.

This article in the Vero Beach Press Journal entitled War Friends Reunite In Vero For Wave Of Memories included a photo of four ex-service women who had been assigned to duty during WW II at the local Air Control Station, today's home of Piper Aircraft. Their names were listed, as was their motel. Consequently, I phoned, asking to speak to any one of the four.

MEMBER
EDITION

In a minute I was talking with ex-WAVE Gloria Zastrow about events of forty five years ago. I asked her if she remembered a certain hotel in the Palm Beach area

"Sure, the George Washington-we used to go there."

That was the name I hadn't been able to dredge up. Let's be thankful for small blessings.

Sincerely, *B. J. S.*

P.S. Gloria's group were in the service after our crew had gone overseas.

* * *

As you know the 99th is always on the look-out for new Directors of our Historical Society. Interested members should contact either Fred Hueglin or Joe Kenney.

CHAPLAINS CORNER

GREETINGS:

Last month we drove to Casper, Wyoming where I saw "Sentimental Journey," that beautifully restored B-17 of the Arizona Wing, Confederate Air Force. Having toured the plane carefully checking the Radio Room I spoke with the guy who was selling that memorabilia at the rear of the hangar. I kidded him about the lack of an IFF radio (SCR-535-A) and the missing Frequency Meter and pointed out that the auxiliary fuel tank transfer and shut-off valves were missing from the rear bulkhead of the bomb bay. He seemed a little sensitive about this and I should apologize.

In a rear corner of that same hangar I was very much surprised to see the ME-109 on display there. It was the first, real live, ME-109 I'd seen with the landing gear extended. I feel this was well worth the trip.

Both of these airplanes were designed as machines of destruction. Our beloved B-17 did what it was intended to do as did that infamous ME-109. A real pause for reflection for each of us.

During these troubled times we need to be in Prayer, that the destruction we necessarily accomplished might not be necessary again.

As we begin this New Year of 1991, let's keep in mind that it is not too early to begin making arrangements for attending our next Reunion to be held in Albuquerque May 1st through May 5th, 1991. These Reunions always hold special meanings to each of us as we meet and greet one another. To meet one you have not seen nor heard from for the past forty-six or seven years is more than special. I look forward to seeing you all there.

When Edward Everett Hale was Chaplain for the United States Senate, someone asked; "Dr. Hale, do you Pray for the Senators?" He answered; "No, I look at the Senators, and then I Pray for the Country!"

To find peace, look for the better you from within yourself. To live with the better you is to live with God. To live with God is to have the saving knowledge of God's Grace.

Joe C. Kenney, Chaplain

Joe

CF

REGISTRATION

99th BOMB GROUP REUNION
ALBUQUERQUE, NEW MEXICO APRIL 30 - MAY 5, 1991
MARRIOTT HOTEL 2101 LOUISIANA BLVD. NE 87110 (505) 831-6800

NAME: _____
SPOUSE: _____
GUEST: _____
ADDRESS: _____
PHONE: _____
SQUADRON: _____

	Number	Before April 1	After April 1	Total
REGISTRATION FEE:		X \$15.00	18.75	
1 May Wednesday				
BUS TRIP TO SANTA FE Lunch Not included		X \$10.00	12.00	
SQUADRON GET ACQUAINTED FINGER FOOD		X \$6.00	7.50	
2 May Thursday				
TOUR AND LUNCH AT KIRTLAND AFB		X \$6.50	8.00	
OR				
TOUR of Old Town & lunch at La Placita and tour of Indian Culture Center		X \$10.50	13.00	
346th & 347th TRAM RIDE AND DINNER ON TOP OF SANDIA CREST		X \$26.00	32.00	
3 May Friday				
BUSINESS LUNCH		X \$13.50	10.50	
348th & 416th TRAM RIDE AND DINNER ON TOP OF SANDIA CREST		X \$26.00	32.00	
4 May Saturday				
BUS TRIP TO SANTA FE Lunch not included		X \$10.00	12.00	
OR				
TOUR of Coronado State Monument (Pueblo of Kuaua) Sandwich and drinks tour of winery		X \$6.00	7.50	
OR				
TOUR of Old Town & lunch at La Placita and tour of Indian Culture Center		X \$10.50	13.00	
NO HOST COCKTAIL AND BANQUET		X \$20.00	20.00	
5 May Sunday				
Continental Breakfast Hospitality Room Yes _____ or No _____				
HOSPITALITY ROOM OPEN TO 6:00 PM				
NEEDED VOLUNTEERS TO WORK IN HOSPITALITY ROOM YES _____ NO _____				
Those that did not get a name badge at Huntsville last year will be able to get one in Albuquerque. We will need your name and 99th service dates. The spouses badges will be identical but will not have the service dates. The badges cost \$3.75 each.				

MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO 99th BGHS REUNION FUND AND MAIL TO:

99th BOMB GP HISTORICAL SOCIETY
WALTER H. BUTLER, TREASURER
8608 BELLEHAVEN PL.N.E.
ALBUQUERQUE, NEW MEXICO 87112

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DATES: April 30th - May 5th
 LOCATION: MARRIOTT HOTEL 2101 LOUISIANA BLVD NE ALBUQUERQUE NM (505)881-6800

MAKE YOUR ROOM RESERVATIONS DIRECTLY TO THE HOTEL

REGISTER EARLY! PLEASE! ON REGISTRATION FORM. HELPS US AND SAVES YOU MONEY \$\$.

MARRIOTT HAS COURTESY CAR FROM AIRPORT TO HOTEL CALL ON ARRIVAL

RV PARKING AT HOTEL - KOA PARK ON CENTRAL AVE EAST (505) 296-3729 EXIT JUAN TABO TO SOUTH

MARRIOTT HAS HEALTH RECREATION _POOL_SPA_ETC SO BRING APPROPRIATE ATTIRE

HOSPITALITY ROOM IS FOR MEETING AND GREETING EACH OTHER WE WILL HAVE IT OPEN FROM 7:00 AM - 10:00 PM. COFFEE AND TEA EACH MORNING AT 7:00 AM BAR HOURS WILL BE AS LISTED IN PROGRAM

WEDNESDAY SQUADRON MIXER - EACH SQUADRON MEMBERS MEET TOGETHER AND BECOME ACQUAINTED WITH EACH OTHER - HAVING FINGER FOODS AND LIGHT DRINKS - THEN ON TO THE HOSPITALITY ROOM

TRIP TO SANTA FE BUS RIDE AROUND CITY PARK IN SQUARE AND WALK TOUR ON YOUR OWN

TOUR KIRTLAND AFB - SEE AND VISIT CURRENT OPERATIONS ON THE AIR BASE - LUNCH OFFICERS CLUB

TRIP TO OLD TOWN TOUR OF OLD TOWN - LUNCH AT LA PLACITO (food of your choice) AND VISIT TO THE PUEBLO INDIAN CULTURAL CENTER

TRAM RIDE AND DINNER ON TOP OF SANDIA CREST - A MUST - BY SQUADRON FOR ADEQUATE ACCOMMODATIONS

THURSDAY AND FRIDAY NIGHT PRESENTATION BRITISH OFFICER SY FELDMAN (99th Member) A WW11 FIGHTER PILOT OF RAF RECOUNTS HIS EXPERIENCES OF HIS WAR !!! VCR AFTER

FRIDAY BUSINESS LUNCH YOU MAY VISIT SHOPPING CENTERS NEAR HOTEL (BEST OF ALBUQ)

SATURDAY YOUR CHOICE OF TRIPS OR RELAXING AT HOTEL - SANTA FE - OLD TOWN Winery AND PUEBLO RUINS

SATURDAY NIGHT - NO HOST COCKTAILS AND BANQUET MUSIC OF THE 30's AND 40's DANCING MUSIC GREAT!!

SUNDAY MEET FOR COFFEE AND CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST IN HOSPITALITY ROOM 7:00 AM TILL??? HOSPITALITY ROOM OPEN TO 6:00 PM - HOTEL CHECK OUT TIME 12:00 NOON

COME AND ENJOY YOURSELF - IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO HELP US OUT IN THE HOSPITALITY ROOM LET US KNOW - WE NEED SOME ASSISTANCE!!

ONCE AGAIN PLAN AHEAD AND REGISTER EARLY TO HELP US IN MAKING ARRANGEMENTS FOR EACH ACTIVITY THAT IS PLANNED

WALTER BUTLER WILL ACCOUNT FOR THE MONIES AND PAY THE BILLS AND LOU BOATWRIGHT WILL PUT YOUR ACTIVITIES IN HIS COMPUTER AND OUT WILL COME YOUR TICKETS, ETC. PLEASE REGISTER EARLY TO HELP US!! LATE REGISTRATION WILL COST YOU \$\$\$ AND US TROUBLE !!! THANKS!

BERNIE AND DORIS BARR DID MOVE ACROSS THE STREET TO 7108 VISTA DEL ARROYO, ALBUQ NM 87109

OUR 15th AIR FORCE WILL BE HAVING A REUNION IN LAS VEGAS NV IN SEPT OR OCT 1991 IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO ATTEND AND HAVE A 99th HOSPITALITY ROOM LET BERNIE BARR KNOW SO WE CAN DO IT TOGETHER - WE CAN TALK ABOUT ON WHAT THE 15th IS DOING AND MEET INFORMALLY ON OUR OWN DURING THE LULL PERIODS.

16th, we hear.

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99th BGHS Reunion
 Albuquerque, New Mexico
 April 30, 1991 - May 5, 1991

Tues. April 30

1:00 PM - 4:00 PM Registration
 1:00 PM - 10:30 PM Hospitality Room Open
 4:00 PM - 10:30 PM Bar Open

Wed. May 1

9:00 AM - 4:00 PM Registration
 7:00 AM Coffee & Tea Hospitality Room
 9:00 AM Tour to Santa Fe
 11:00 - 1:00 PM Bar Open
 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM Bar Open
 6:30 PM - Squadron Mixer - Buffet + Beer (Men and Ladies)
 End of Mixer to 10:00 PM Bar Open

Thur. May 2

7:00 AM - 9:00 AM Coffee & Tea Hospitality Room
 7:30 AM Bus Leaves Trip to KAFB Men And Ladies

Tour 1606 Air Base Wing
 1550th Combat Training Wing
 Helicopter - C 130, Visual Flight Simulator
 Tour - Atomic Museum - Tressel
 12:00 Noon Lunch Officers Club

10:00 AM Bus leaves for Old Town and lunch at La Placita and tour of the Indian Culture Center & Museum
 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM Bar Open
 4:30 PM Bus leaves for 346th & 347th Tram Ride & Dinner
 7:30 PM - 10:30 PM Bar Open Cy Feldman Bag Pipes
 VCR - 99th BG Show

Fri. May 3rd

7:00 AM - Coffee & Tea Hospitality Room
 8:30 AM Board Meeting
 10:00 - 11:30 Bar Open
 12:00 Noon Business Meeting & Lunch (Men and Ladies)
 2:00 PM Board Meeting
 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM Bar Open
 4:30 PM Bus leaves for 348th & 416th Tram Ride & Dinner
 7:30 PM - 10:30 PM Bar Open Cy Feldman Bag Pipes
 VCR - 99th BG Show

Sat. May 4

7:00 AM Coffee & Tea Hospitality Room
 9:00 AM Bus leaves for Santa Fe (Men And Ladies)
 10:00 AM Bus leaves for Old Town and Lunch at La Placita and tour of the Indian Culture Center & Museum
 10:15 AM Tour of Coronado State Monument (Pueblo of Kuaua)
 Sandwiches and drinks tour of Winery
 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM Bar Open
 3:30 PM - 5:00 PM Bar Open
 6:00 PM No Host Cocktails
 7:00 PM Banquet
 Music - Dancing - Sound Factory (Three piece Band)
 After Dinner to 11:00 PM Bar Open

Sun May 5

7:00 AM Coffee & Tea Continental Breakfast Hospitality Room
 12:00 Noon check out
 Hospitality Room Open to 6:00 PM

See page 24 for Marriott Registration.

ALBUQUERQUE REUNION APR. 30 - MAY 5 1991



MAKE YOUR RESERVATION
DIRECT TO THE HOTEL
FOR ROOMS!

ALBUQUERQUE **Marriott**

2101 LOUISIANA BOULEVARD NE (I-40 at Louisiana)
ALBUQUERQUE, NEW MEXICO 87110 • (505) 881-6800

A limited number of sleeping rooms have been set aside for your group. Any reservation request received after the cut off date will be handled on a space availability "first come" basis for both availability and rates.

CUT OFF DATE April 9, 1991

NAME OF GROUP: 99TH BOMB GROUP HISTORICAL SOCIETY
 DATES: April 30 through May 5, 1991

LAST NAME	FIRST	MIDDLE	ARRIVAL DATE	DEPARTURE DATE
			DAY	DAY
FIRM			TIME	TIME
STREET			CREDIT CARDS	
			NAME	
CITY	STATE	ZIP CODE	NUMBER	EXP DATE
SHARING WITH			SIGNATURE	
			Rollaway Beds \$10.00. Cribs Free. Children in same room with parents - Free.	
ARRIVAL DATE OF SHARING PARTY			Check in after 3 p.m. Check out - Noon	

PLEASE CIRCLE TYPE OF ROOM REQUESTED	DOUBLE 2 BEDS 2 PERSONS \$64.00	PARLOR ROOM \$125.00
SINGLE 1 BED 1 PERSON \$64.00	TRIPLE 2 BEDS 3 PERSONS \$64.00	PARLOR ROOM + 1 BEDROOM
DOUBLE 1 BED 2 PERSONS \$64.00	QUAD 2 BEDS 4 PERSONS \$64.00	

Reservations are held until 8:00 pm ONLY on the date of arrival unless we have a major credit card # (above) or an advance deposit equivalent to the first night's room & tax charges.

NEWS, DUES & VIEWS

Marriott of Albuquerque informs us that seven floors of the hotel are designated Non-Smoking. We are indebted to Joe Young, one of our many Marriott friends for this welcome information.

Bob Cannellos asks if we have a system for locating stragglers. Bob, I am glad you asked me that. Yes, we have a postcard search which has gotten us a few addresses. We write to all persons in a man's hometown of record who have the same last name. In spite of the 48-year time lapse we do find some stragglers! *george*

During the recent past all of the 99th work accumulated in our In-Basket. However, by such sneaky devices as sending out newsletter analyses with no personal letters we have managed to gain on the said In-Basket to the point where we may get onto the trail now and then. Meanwhile we have deferred all research until we get snowed in. Sorry.

Your Editor, after an 18-month period of feeling poorly has recovered and is back on the trail. My thanks for the Get Well cards and the HAPPY BIOPSY card. *george*

Come visit Albuquerque, the magical year-round Southwest vacation city. Our inspiring combination of landscapes and cultures offers a colorful canvas for you to explore. Romantically set between the famous Rio Grande and the majestic



Sandia Mountains, you will find Albuquerque refreshingly unique and unspoiled. Centuries of native Indian and Hispanic cultural influences are balanced against futuristic research and development. Dazzling natural beauty refreshes the soul while

sophisticated metropolitan destinations stimulate the mind. Pueblo Indians inhabited the Albuquerque area for hundreds of years before Francisco Coronado entered New Mexico in 1540 searching for the fabled "Seven Cities of Gold." Archaeological



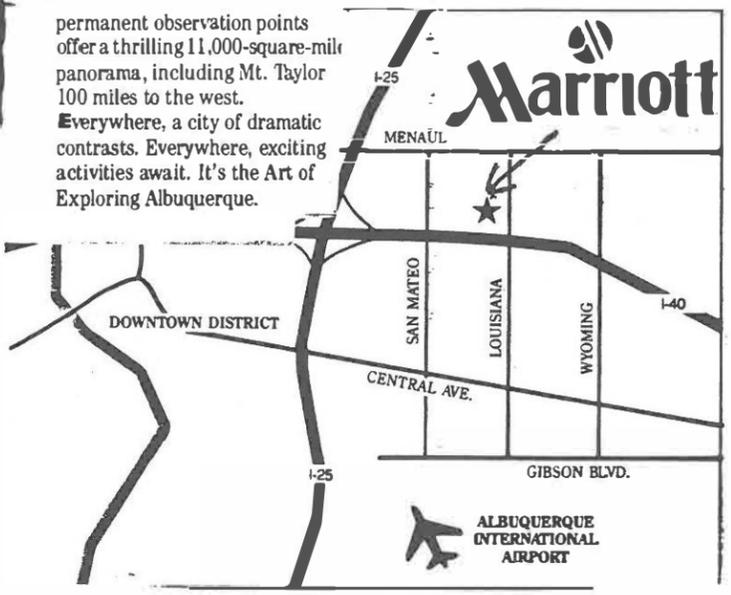
evidence points to the prehistoric existence of Sandia Man much earlier, about 12,000 years ago. Albuquerque was founded in 1706 and named for the Duke of Alburquerque (original spelling) by colonists who had been given permission by the King of Spain to establish a new villa. That area is now known as Old Town, one of the city's most interesting

attractions. Narrow winding streets lead you to quaint shops and restaurants. It's a wonderful place to enjoy the historic Southwest. Plan on sampling plenty of exotic New Mexican cuisine, a melding of ancient Indian and Hispanic tradition. Often copied but never quite duplicated anywhere else in the country, the



enchiladas, tamales, chile and other delicacies are legendary. Ride the Sandia Peak Tram, a breathtaking 5,000-foot ascent on the longest tram in the world - 2.7 miles in 20 minutes. Then from Sandia Peak, more than 2 miles above sea level,

permanent observation points offer a thrilling 11,000-square-mile panorama, including Mt. Taylor 100 miles to the west. Everywhere, a city of dramatic contrasts. Everywhere, exciting activities await. It's the Art of Exploring Albuquerque.



Old Town Albuquerque's Old Town Plaza is the heart of the city's heritage. Settled in 1706, this village was formed in the traditional Spanish pattern of a central plaza surrounded by a church, government buildings and homes. Today Old Town is a wonderful place to enjoy the historic Southwest and browse in more than 100 shops, boutiques and restaurants. Enjoy jewelry, crafts, art galleries, museums, San Felipe de Neri church, New Mexican food and fascinating adobe architecture.

March Field Newsletter

TRIBUTE IN TILE TIME ..

A unique purchase of memorial tiles was made by the World War II 99th Bomb Group. The Group, and each of the four squadrons, purchased tiles to tell their story, and blank tiles to form a border around their section. Their order added \$650 to the heritage tile fund of the new museum building. You might consider a similar segment for your organization. (See tile reservation form attached)

Call the foundation office, 714-655-2138, for details.



Volunteer Martha Amoruso accepts the tile reservation order and check from Frank English of the 99th Bomb Group

QUOTES

from VICTORY IN EUROPE by Max Hastings and George Stevens.

[on June 6, 1944] the greatest amphibious force the world had ever seen began to steam its slow ponderous course across the darkened Channel. Below decks thousands of men lay crammed in their bunks reading, sleeping, playing poker, nursing sea-sickness and the great tension thrust upon them by knowledge of what lay ahead.

Above them in the night sky, the great fleet of transport aircraft and gliders droned towards its dropping zones packed with men, each one clumsily burdened by his deadweight of weapons and equipment.

Resistance groups throughout France received the Action Messages for which they had waited so long, alerting them to mobilize and begin acting against German units and communications. **Incredibly, even now the German High Command failed to perceive either the invasion fleet or the significance of the mass allied activity.** p. 28

It seems that the technique which the 99th pioneered in the invasion of Sicily was used a second time to blank out the German radar and conceal the 7000 ships of the Allied invasion fleet. I hope to write about this WTRIO. (When The Rush Is Over.) *geo.*

Since I wrote you looking for survivors of the B-24 crew shot down by one of the squadrons of the 99th BG, I was contacted by Steve Birdsall, author, for additional information about the incident. He wants to include the story in a book about the B-17 he is completing for his publisher. With the information I gave him, he found the group, squadron, plane and pilot of the downed B-24. The group was the 450th. I, since, was given the name of the operations officer of the squadron by Victor Meeker of the 450th BGHS. The operations officer is now a colonel, apparently retired.

Re-printed from Briefing, Journal of Int. B-24 Club.
Steve Birdsall wrote it would be interesting to get a copy of the Missing Plane Crew Report on the B-24. I obtained this at the Washington National Records Center, located in Suitland, MD, and part of the Archives in nearby Washington, D.C. This report reveals: Two B-24 witnesses never mentioned that 36 B-17s were just a few hundred feet away when the B-24 went down. They say only that their squadron was under attack by e/a and one B-24 went down with the wing on fire and exploded about 2,000 feet above the water. Eleven parachutes were seen. The 11th man was on the flight as an observer. All men were listed as MIA. I feel sure all were KIA. I've written the operations officer, inquiring if there were any survivors. I already have definite evidence two of the crew did not survive.
I have no hope of ever getting a reaction to my story by any B-24 crewmen present that day. The fact that two witnesses said nothing about fire from the B-17s has convinced me of this. The first contact I

made with Vic Meeker, he wrote that he would have known about the incident if it had happened. It was the talk of the 99th for days. Is it possible that no one in the B-24 squadron knew their planes were being fired at?

I assume you published my request for a contact with any of the B-24 crewmen on the scene that day, Jan. 16, 1944.
Wallace Bush
308 N. Red Hill Rd.
Martinsburg, WV 25401

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP - 1991 DUES -\$15

NEWSLETTERS 1981-1990 \$10 per yr. 81_82_83_84_85_86_87_88_89_90_Total__

NAME _____ SQUADRON (OR ASSOC.) _____

ADDRESS _____ NEW _____ RENEWAL _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____ PHONE _____

Mail to Walter Butler, Treasurer, 8608 Bellehaven Place NE, Albuquerque, NM, 87112. Make check payable to 99BGHS. The upper left corner of your address label shows the date to which you are paid up.

We continue the subscriptions of deceased members for an extra year, but please remember to send us any change of address.

* * * * *

TAPS

ED JENKINS We have word from Frank English that Ed has passed away. Ed's daughter, Carol, says that Ed died on Oct 13, 1990 from a sudden heart attack.

RAYMOND F. CURRY Our father, Raymond F. Curry, passed away September 14, 1990. He was an avid reader of your newsletter and was always reading both historical and technical publications. about his beloved B-17. Our entire family extends our thanks to each of you for giving him so much enjoyment.

The following notice appeared in the Youngstown Vindicator.

RAYMOND F. Curry, 72; Retired Electrician from GATX, Lowellville. . . . Mr. Curry, of 2119 Steward Rd., who died of cancer Friday morning. His nickname was "Tuss". . . . His wife, the former Margaret E. Joyce, whom he married Oct. 31, 1942, died Apr. 1, 1990.

He leaves a son, Raymond E. of Winchester, Va.; two daughters, Mrs. Kathy Lucido and Mrs. Mary Ann McCaughtry, both of Lowellville; and nine grandchildren. . . .

Thank you

Raymond F. Curry

REUNIONS

30 Apr 1991 99th Bomb Group, Albuquerque NM

Bernice Barr, 7408 Vista del Arroyo, Albuquerque NM 87109

16 Sep 1991 15th Air Force Association, Las Vegas NV

Spring 1992 99th Bomb Group, Baltimore MD

James R. LaVey 2414 Girdwood Rd. Timonium MD 21093

99th Bomb Gp Historical Society
 Walter H. Butler - Treasurer
 8608 Bellehaven Pl. N.E.
 Albuquerque, New Mexico 87112

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Jan 1991

Roster Edition

Change of Address

Raymond D. Berendt
 Emanuel Gyler
 George Ardelean
 George W. Brandt
 Joe Lesch

FL 34667
 CA 90804
 IN 46268-4401
 NV 89134
 OH 44906

FOUND

957 George Krause
 958 Lawrence H. Pearson
 959 W.J. Lutkenhouse
 960 Jack C. Fiegenbaum
 961 Dr. Alex E. Ratelle

VA 23111 346
 NJ 08204 346
 CA 94702
 IA 51104 416
 MN 55435 346