



A message from our president Francis X Gosselin



What I like the best about Thanksgiving is thanking the Lord for the bounty we have received and the enjoyment of roast turkey, all its trimmings, and all the pumpkin pie, is knowing that the Christmas Holidays are forthcoming. And with the holidays, we will have the pleasure to settling down once more to celebrate our families and close friends.

But with the advent of the holidays, it is time to think about the trouble time we have before us nationwide, and provide our leadership with ideas to help correct the economic situation we are in.

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During the holidays, let us pray that our nation unite together once more as we have done in previous years and make 2012 the beginning of the restoration of our faith, personal and national values and renew our faith in our nation that we shall overcome all our problems and move ahead to continue being the best place in the world to live.

The dark days ahead of high unemployment and deteriorated economy could be the end of our enjoyable reunions for it will be most expensive to travel and get together.

Because of our lack of financial resources, we rely mostly on volunteer help. And they find themselves contributing far more hours required for the task. This is due mostly to incorrect member's records and inability of some of our members to visit our web site for pertinent information. You can help us save valuable man-hours.

Merry Christmas to all and a Happy and Prosperous New Year!

Francis

My Most Memorable Christmas

Fay Dickey

The war was lost to us and we came to a new world of misery, despair, and hunger. As the tired lady got off the train, she realized what a long journey it would be through the woods. She had to walk briskly for more than three hours, if she wanted to reach her destination-home, where her little girl was eagerly waiting for her and Christmas Eve.

Yes, tonight was Christmas Eve! There was nothing the lady with the stooped shoulders and weary features had to give her little girl, who wished so longingly for a doll.

Where could one get a doll in a land where people were starving and had not hope?

How did a mother tell her only child that Christmas was passing them over this year?

It started to snow softly. In the late afternoon dusk, the trees appeared like giants in glittering dress. How long the lady had walked and how far? She didn't know. All of the sudden her foot hit an obstacle in her path. She needed to rest anyway, so she searched for the root which had tripped her. It was not as she had suspected; there in the snow was an old battered box. She bent down and carefully scrapped the snow and the ice away to see what the box might contain.

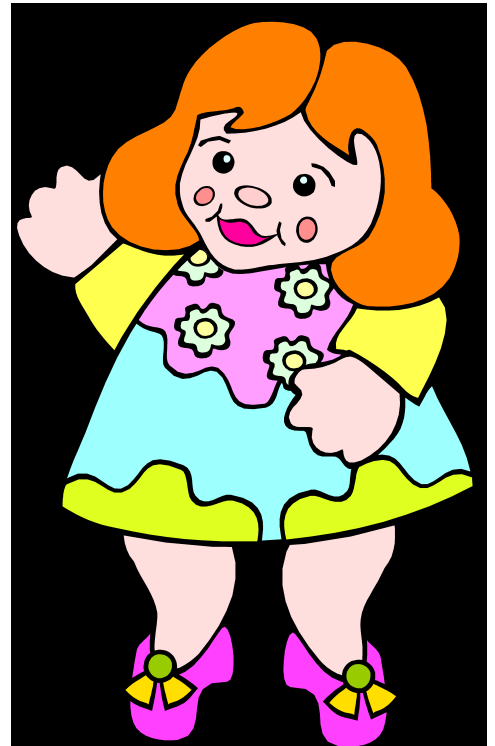
Are there any miracles in this world? Does God always know the secret, hopes, wants, and wishes of his children? To her surprised, when she opened the box, there was a doll. It looked as if somebody had lost this treasure a long, long time ago and had survived the mud and elements, for it seem to be almost new! Tears came to the woman's eyes for she knew that her little girl would have a doll after all!

She thanked God with all her heart for such a gift. For many years to come, the doll was the most treasured toy for the little girl!

Years later, my mother told me about the mysterious Christmas present. Today, the doll is still loved and currently resides in my Leonard, Minnesota, home where she has a special place every year under our Christmas tree.

My own children think she is an ugly doll, but to me this doll has become the "Wonder of Christmas" on that Christmas Eve many years ago.

As I look at my old doll, she still represents my faith, love, my personality, and success in life!



BACK TO THE LAND OF ROUND DOORKNOBS

By Glen "Griff" Griffiths

My three-year tour of duty with the 601st AC&W Squadron at Rothwesten and Wasserkuppe came to an end on July 3, 1960. My year at Rothwesten was a period of adjustment to military life and to the culture of a German city making valiant efforts to recover from WW II hardships. I learned Kassel had been virtually destroyed in the war by RAF and U.S. 8th Air Force bombings. This was 1957, but mounds of rubble could be found in nearly every neighborhood. I was truly impressed with the courage, determination and generosity of the German people. I was disappointed by the USAFE'S 1958 decision to transfer radar operations from Gunpost Hill near Rothwesten to Wasserkuppe in the Rhön Mountains. I had begun to think of Kassel as my new hometown. The transfer to the mountain was somewhat of a culture shock. There, I felt isolated without



access to the customary city conveniences. However, we made the best of it and soon adjusted to a different life style. Along with Sgt. Bob Burns, John Hauk, Perry Bailey, Dave Brabec and a few others, I made frequent trips back to Kassel

during our Charlie crew three-day breaks.

I was fortunate to meet and fall in love with a beautiful girl during those visits. Two years later we were married in the Kassel City Hall.

But now it was time to rotate back to the states. Due to circumstances, I had to leave my bride and our baby in Germany for a short while. They would join me later in Oregon. My journey back to USA began with a bus ride to Rhine-Main AFB. The next morning

I boarded a MATS C-121 destined for McGuire AFB, NJ The



aircraft was filled with smiling GI's happy to be going home. Most of us were anticipating civilian life.

The flight plan called for a tech stop at Lajes Field in the Azores. There we deplaned for a couple hours and waited in the local snack bar while the aircraft was refueled and serviced. Then we took off with a new flight crew. About two hours later the pilot announced a minor problem with number two of the four engines. The prop would be feathered. He tried to assure us we were not in danger. "This aircraft can be safely flown without that engine", he said. We would continue on to McGuire AFB.

Then came another problem. Engine number four began to sputter, then fail. Its prop was feathered. The pilot announced the situation was not critical, but we would turn back to the Azores. This time there was less confidence in his voice as he explained that all nonessential fuel would be jettisoned to lighten the load. We were about two hours from the Azores, over the Atlantic Ocean. I looked out of the window and observed two C-54 "Air-Sea Rescue" planes off our starboard side. There was oil streaming from the number four engine and fuel spewing from under the wing. I snapped a couple photos.

One of the C-121 feathered props
Our "Air-Sea Rescue" C-54 escort to the Azores

As we were losing altitude, the white-capped Atlantic Ocean waves appeared closer and closer. I remember thinking at the time that the mission of the so-called "rescue



aircraft" was actually to mark the last known location of our flight. Rescue was not was a likely scenario.

Our plane continued to descend and the white-capped waves were growing bigger and bigger as the aircraft struggled to stay in the air. Finally, the islands came into view and the pilot announced we were on an emergency approach. We landed without incident. Everyone sighed with relief.

That aircraft was red lined. We waited six hours while another was flown in to replace it. The next flight was unremarkable. We arrived at McGuire AFB early in the morning.

Some of us were expecting to be discharged within a few days. However, due to an administration backlog, I was transferred to Mountain Home, a S. A. C. airbase in the high desert of Idaho. Growing up in eastern Oregon, I was accustomed to temperature extremes. But after three years in a milder climate, I needed to readjust to the mid-summer heat of Idaho. I found coping with the daily 105°+ temps very difficult. I thought about the unfortunate personnel working on the tarmac and considered my situation was actually pretty good. Quartered in the transit barracks for the next ten days with nothing to do was rather tedious while I waited for the paperwork to be processed. And then it was done. I was a civilian.

Welcome back to the land of round doorknobs, Glen.

Glen Griffiths now lives near Portland, Oregon
Email: Gunpost@comcast.net





The Inertial Navigation System

By Dick Peiffer

An Inertial Navigation System (INS) is an onboard system that uses accelerometers and gyroscopes to constantly calculate by dead reckoning the velocity, orientation, and position of a moving object, from a known starting point. It does this without the need for external references like ground based navigational aids or the Global Position System (GPS). It has an interesting history and dates back to the Germans using it onboard the V2 rocket. Used extensively in airplanes, guided missiles, submarines, and spacecraft over the years, today's systems normally incorporate GPS for greater accuracy. Basically, it is a self-contained unit, smaller than a breadbox, with the gyroscopes and accelerometers providing navigational information to a crew, autopilot or directly to the flight control surfaces in the case of a missile.

An explanation of how an INS works without outside orientation can be a challenge. The following is purported to be an excerpt from a flight students test report explaining, in simplified terms the operation of the Inertial Navigation System.

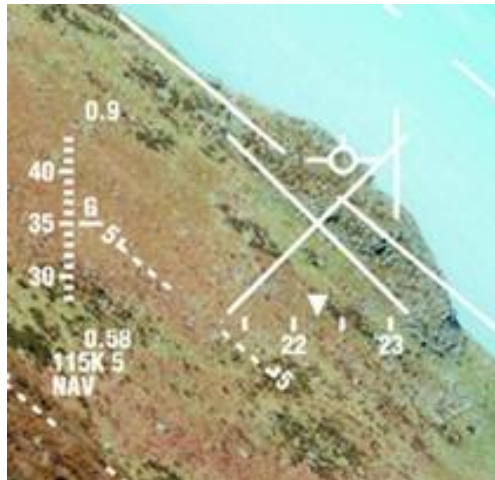
".....the INS knows where it is at all times. It knows this because it knows where it isn't. By subtracting where it is from where it isn't, or where it isn't from where it is (whichever is greater), it obtains a difference or deviation. The INS uses these deviations to generate corrective commands to fly the aircraft from a position where it is to a position where it isn't; arriving at the position where it wasn't, it now is. Consequently the position where it is now the position where it wasn't, and it follows

the position where it was, is the position where it isn't. In the event the position where it is now is not the position where it wasn't, the INS will immediately realize it has acquired a variation

(variations are caused by external factors, and the discussion of these factors is not considered to be within the scope of this report), the variation being the difference between where the aircraft is and where the aircraft wasn't. If variation is considered to be a significant factor, it too may be corrected for by the INS. The "thought progress" of the INS is as follows: Because a variation has modified some of the information which it has obtained, it is not sure where it is. However, it is sure where it isn't (within reason), and it knows where it was. INS now subtracts where it should be from where it wasn't (or vice-versa) and by differentiating this from the algebraic difference between where it shouldn't be and where it

was it is able to obtain the difference between its deviation and its variation, which is called error...

This error is then recorded in the student's grade book by his Flight Instructor."



R. J. "Dick" Peiffer was in the 601st in Ops on Alpha Crew, from May 1954 to May 1957. Entered on duty with the FAA in 1958 in ATC and retired 1990. Then until 2003, he was a corporate pilot flying for a half dozen companies in a variety of business aircraft. Still an active pilot he gives required pilot flight reviews, instrument competency checks and conducts aviation safety seminars.

Dec. 1, 2011

Rare move-in offer for Bob Hope Village, Teresa Village in Florida

SHALIMAR, Fla. (AFRNS) – Officials at Air Force Enlisted Village are offering a “New Year, New Beginning” move-in special for Bob Hope Village and Teresa Village. The special features no waiting time and no first-month service fee when a lease is signed for either community between Dec. 15 and Feb. 15.

Located within minutes of Eglin Air Force Base, Hurlburt Field, a Veterans Affairs clinic, shopping, dining, fishing, golfing and the beaches of the Emerald Coast, Bob Hope Village and Teresa Village are exclusive communities for retired enlisted military widows and couples.

Residents of Bob Hope Village and Teresa Village say that downsizing is liberating, and they enjoy the affordable, active, worry-free lifestyle that living at either community offers, according to Air Force Enlisted Village officials.

Bob Hope Village and Teresa Village have spacious one- and two-bedroom apartments with carpeting, major kitchen appliances, storage areas and patio. The monthly service fee includes basic cable, water, sewer and trash; maintenance and grounds keeping; free laundry facilities; ample parking; and security.

Bob Hope Village and Teresa Village offer transportation; a café with delivery service; guest quarters; a convenience store; beauty salons; libraries; chapel program; banking; and RV parking. Activities have an emphasis on socializing, and there are swimming pools; fitness rooms and classes; special events, parties and community trips; a children’s play park for visiting grandchildren; gardening plots; and social clubs.

Residents have access to an on-site doctor office and preferred providers; on-site out-patient physical, occupational, and speech therapy; on-site mobile lab; prescription pick-up; medical-alert system (Bob Hope Village only); wellness seminars; blood pressure checks; hospice care; and when needed, assisted living and memory care at nearby Hawthorn House.

For more information, call the admissions office at 800-258-1413 to discuss eligibility regarding this special offer. This special is available for a limited time and some restrictions may apply.

People can learn more about Air Force Enlisted Village by visiting <http://www.afenlistedwidows.org/>.

For more retiree news and information, please visit www.retirees.af.mil.

MEMBERSHIP DUES

Your membership dues are for the calendar year 2012. The dues are still \$20.00. Please renew your membership as soon as possible and/or before December 31st, 2011. Make your check payable to Association Treasurer, Howard Dickey, 27382 450th St., Leonard, MN 56652 .Thanks.

WEB BITS @ PIECES

By

William (Willie) Hanson

601st-615th ACW

Webmaster



Safer Online Computing

By way of the Internet we can roam all around the world, see things we otherwise would never see, talk long distance for free, keep up with the news and listen to music, read books, blog, buy, sell and a lot more. We can search and find information about almost anything we are curious about. Our life-broadening experiences appear to be unlimited. The Internet highway will probably continue to lead us to bigger and better things. Everything, however, is not free. There are things that can take place on the computer that we are not always aware of.

While browsing the Internet, web sites can place things on your computer known as tracking cookies. This allows sites to be able to follow your tracks and determine what you are interested in. You could then be targeted for some unwanted mail.

We can pick up cookies simply by browsing a web site. Sometimes we are lured into this by being asked to participate in a survey or a poll. Their interest lies not in our opinion, but in placing a cookie on the computer. Also the signing of a petition results not in our congressman getting the message, but another cookie. This is not to say that there aren't legitimate petitions, etc. but I avoid them all.

Some of the better anti-virus programs scan the computer for tracking cookies and remove them. There are some things a computer operator can do locally to help. That is by opening the browser and then going to Internet Options and then Privacy. Some adjustments can be made here. Just make notes of any changes made in case it becomes necessary to change it again. Controlling third party cookies can result in less spam.

It is a good idea to occasionally delete Browser History. This is also found under Internet Options but under the General Tab.

A Disk Cleanup can sometimes clear a nagging problem. Find this under Programs/Accessories/System Tools.

Cookies are a part of the Windows operating system. They exist for the purpose of faster operating, remembering passwords and other things. There is little we can do to avoid them altogether but a little control can help make computing a little smoother.

HELP!

Please help us keep our membership database current. If you have changed your profile, please let us know by sending us an e-mail using our web site:

<http://www.601st-615th-ac.w.org/index.html>. This will make sure that all your Association information, newsletters, etc., are not be delayed and/or sent. Thank you.



MailBag



Dear Wilfred:

I would be delighted to contribute an article to your newsletter. I have many stories to tell but my dilemma is which one to choose! During my life I have been to many places and met many interesting and special people who have touched my life in many ways, good and bad! I am single, with 3 daughters, Tracey, Anastasia, Dominique and son Daniel. Tracey has accomplished many great things in her short life which I will share with your membership at a later time. My second daughter, Anastasia, is a teacher at Eastway Elementary School in Charlotte, NC, currently working on her PHD. Dominique, my youngest daughter, has 3 beautiful grandchildren 2 grandsons and my 2 year granddaughter Ariana. She moved to Charlotte to start a new life and is now waiting to see if she will be able to get her degree in Culinary arts. Daniel, my son, lives in Huntingdon Beach, CA and is an aspiring actor, singer, musician. He has had parts numerous TV shows and films.

All of my children have been blessed with great talents. My life has been full of people who have touched and moved my life in directions undreamed of! When I returned to the United States from in tour with my husband in Germany, I was going through a bitter divorce and had custody of the 2 oldest girls. It was tough getting started I arrived at Wright-Patterson AFB, in Ohio. The next day I went to the NCO Club to find that an old boss of my husbands ran the Complex there. He was very supportive, took us under his wing and helped me to find a home and a job. After a year in Ohio, became General Club Manager of the Twin City Club in Winston-Salem, NC., to start a new chapter in my life!

I ran the club for 2 years before burn out! Since I had a talent for computers, I took a position as a computer instructor at Forsythe Technical College, taught at several other colleges, contracted for IBM and private companies. I opened up my own TSR Computers Inc and as we moved, we expanded and the company grew. In 2007 my mother was taken ill and had to sell my company and house and move to England to take care of her. Unfortunately, God had other plans and she was taken to heaven the

day after I arrived. I stayed with my father for 3 weeks to be back to square one, get a job, find a house and start again!

Well I found a job with Wal-Mart; applied for many jobs with the government but never got lucky. I interviewed with the FBI, JSOC at Fort Bragg, and was accepted as a computer scientist with the USAF at

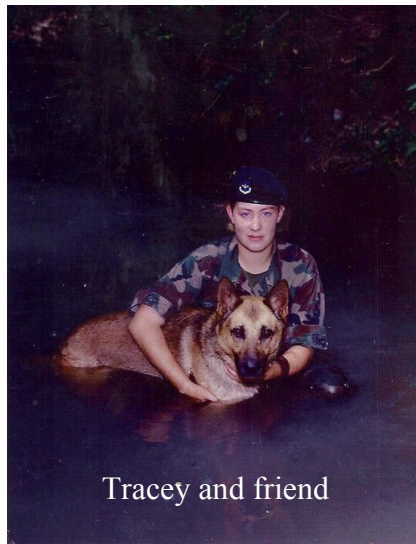
Kelly AFB, TX. While waiting for the background checks to be completed, I was offered a job as a Club Manager in Okinawa Japan with the Marine Corp Community Services. After some consideration, off we went to Okinawa!

My term in Okinawa was full of excitement and laughter; building a new Tengan Castle Restaurant on Camp Courtney and remodeling the Officers Club Legends. Many pictures are on my Facebook page, Jane Raymond - Tengan Castle Okinawa.

In my other life, I am currently a Major in Civil Air Patrol. I joined the CAP after the 911 attack, and in 2001, I organized squadron, 156 Mount Airy, North Carolina. The cadets and officers of NC156 have received many awards and distinctions for participating in honor guards, and search and rescue activities. In the first 2 years, the squadron was awarded distinctions for being an Honor Guard for Wright Brothers' 99th & 100th Anniversary at Kitty Hawk; Honor Guard in the opening Ceremonies to NASCAR.

As the squadron commander along with CAP Cadet Julian Torres, were presented the National Life Saving Certificate for saving five lives in a car crash on Jul 2002. Later on, my proudest moment was when Julian and another cadet soloed a plane and received their wings. Now Julian flies for a commercial airline company.

Wilfred, later will devote some time to tell you about Tracey's achievements, my life in the Royal Air Force, and my love for the CAP.



Tracey and friend

Jane Raymond., Maj., CAP, USAFA

WHY DO CHILDREN NEED A PET?



To hold their binky for them while



To make sure Mom gets their good side even when they are sleeping



To clean their face off so Mom doesn't have to



....and most important to thank Jesus for each other!

Arlington National Cemetery

Rest easy,
sleep well my brothers.
Know
the line has
held, your job
is done. Rest
easy, sleep well.
Others have
taken up where
you fell, the
line has held.
Peace, peace,
and farewell.



is the fact that Harrington is in one
the
poorest
parts of
the state.

You hear
too much
about the
bad
things
people do.
Everyone

Readers may be interested to know
that these wreaths -- some 5,000 --
are donated by the
Worcester Wreath Co of
Harrington, Maine . The
owner, Merrill Worcester,
not only provides the
wreaths, but covers the
trucking expense as well.
He's done this since 1992.
A wonderful guy. Also,
most years, groups of
Maine school kids combine
an educational trip to DC
with this event to help out.
Making this even more remarkable

should hear about this.



From an E-Mail from Carlton L. Kitchens '58
carlkitch@aol.com