



PROSIT!



Frohe Weihnachten und ein frohes neues Jahr

News Letter of the 601ST, 615TH ACWRON Association Vol I Number 2 December 2009

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Message From The President

This is our first Christmas issue of "Prosit." The newsletter has been well received by our membership. We must remember that the issues to follow depend upon contributions by the members. We are a diverse group with great material to distribute and share.

I hope we all had a joyful Thanksgiving and are ready take part in a wonderful holiday season with our family and friends. Let us be grateful for those who made it thru the year. At the same time let us spend a moment to remember those whom we have lost. They will always be in our prayers.

We must reflect on the coming New Year. There will be difficult times for all of us. We will all have changes in our personal lives during the year; there will also be changes in the country.

I hope that we may all take some time and use this newsletter to share the good times with our members. I hope to see you all this year at our reunion. May the Lord bless and keep you all safe.

Francis X Gosselin

Message From The Editor

When you send material for the news letter please do not send forwarded messages. Copy the relevant information into your word processor and do a search and replace to remove extraneous characters placed there by the forward. Check the spelling at the same time. Then copy the data from the word processor into the email you send.

If your material is from a particular website where there may be dozens of items described, send one example of the content and the website address. Then readers to can go to the website and chose for themselves.

If you click on a link in here and nothing happens, copy and paste the address into your browser.

We must devise a system of identifying ourselves. Name, years in 601st/615th, primary duty site will help others recognize you.

We also need ideas for the banner as well as suggested names for the newsletter.

**Dues for 2010 are \$20.00 dollars
They are payable by January 31st, 2010.
Please make your checks out to the treasurer and mail to:**

**Howard Dickey
27382 450th Street
Leonard, MN 56652**

Health and Welfare

Howard Dickey

Howard came home for a week after 4 months in the VA Hospital. Another infection set in and he went back to the hospital for intervenious antibiotics. He was able to celebrate Thanksgiving with his family and meet his new grandson Kellan.

We hope that he does not have to stay in the hospital too long, they told us two weeks, but you know, how that goes.

Fay Dickey, December 1, 2009

Eduardo Van Hattan

Sunday, November 29, 2009

Ed's brother, Robert, age 75, had a massive heart attack a few days ago. He died enroute to the hospital. We will be flying to California for the funeral services, to be held on Sat., Dec. 5th. Please keep the family in your prayers.

Love & blessings, Amy

Francis Gosselin November 29, 2009

My Wish List

During the holiday season there's a question often asked of me,

“What do you want for Christmas;
What would you like under the tree?”

If I were a child
I'd quickly reply,
“A doll!” if a girl;
“A train!” if a boy.

But that time in life has long since passed. The gifts I want now are treasures that last. Not just through the holiday season, but last all the year through - Being helpful and kind to each other, being Christ-like in all that we do.

What gifts do I want for Christmas?

The gifts Baby Jesus brought with his birth - Love in each heart, joy in each soul. And most of all, peace on earth!

Mary Ann Carter Houston.

How to Tell if You Have a Cold or the Flu

It's that time of year again: hacking cough, drippy nose and a fever.

How do you know if that tickle in the back of your throat is the symptom of a cold or a sign that you're about to come down with the flu? And is it the seasonal flu or the H1N1 flu?

Check out this list of symptoms from the **Federal Citizen Information Center** and the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases and the FDA's Office of Women's Health to help answer your question.

Do you have...

A fever? It might be the flu: Fevers are rare with common colds, but almost always accompany the flu.

A sore throat? It might be a cold: It's normal to have a sore throat with a cold, but less likely with the flu.

A headache? It might be the flu: Rare with a cold, common with the flu.

Achiness? It might be the flu: Mild aches can sometimes be signs of a cold. Severe aches are a good indicator of the flu.

Exhaustion? It might be the flu: Not likely with a cold, almost always with the flu.

A stuffy nose? It might be a cold: Very likely to be the symptom of a cold, but can occasionally be associated with the flu.

If your symptoms tend to fall more on the cold side of the spectrum, your best bet is to get lots of rest and fluids. You should start to feel better in a few days. If your symptoms are more flu-like, head to the doctor, who can determine the best form of treatment and test whether it's H1N1 or the seasonal flu.

For more information on symptoms, remedies and preventing the flu, visit **USA.gov's Flu page** (<http://go.usa.gov/lcs>) and read **The Flu** (<http://go.usa.gov/lco>) and **Is It a Cold Or the Flu** (<http://go.usa.gov/lct>) fact sheets.

There are two ways to get copies of these publications:

1. Read or download them online

- **The Flu** (<http://go.usa.gov/lco>)
- **Is It a Cold or the Flu?** (<http://go.usa.gov/lct>)

Will Hanson

Schokoladen Flieger

On Nov. 14th of this year I attended an address by Col. Gail Halverson (ret), the Candy Bomber of the Berlin Airlift. In his talk he mentioned ground control units in the American Zone of occupied Germany and in Berlin at Tempelhof airfield.

I was with the 601st Tactical Control Squadron from June, 1946 to Oct. or Nov. 1948 and was a string puller and scope dope at our radar site which traced airlift aircraft through the twenty mile corridor to Berlin.

After the Colonel finished his talk, I approached him and when I got a chance to speak asked him how many flights he took in Tempelhof. About 140, he replied.

Then I asked, "Does the name Gunpost ring a bell?"

He jerked back. Clapped his hand to his head, and said, "Gunpost, you guys saved a lot of us."

The job of the Gunpost crews was to keep the Gooney Birds (C47s) and the later C54s centered in the corridor, away from the edges which were being patrolled by Soviet Yak fighter planes.

In just about everything I have been reading about the Berlin Airlift there is mention of ground control at the start and end of the Airlift carriers. But I have found nothing about the tactical control work of the Gunpost crews of the 601st Tactical Control Squadron. I hope this provides a little more information about their important work.

Incidentally Col. Halverson signed a copy of his book, "The Berlin Candy Bomber" It is a good read and I heartily recommend it to anyone interested in the Airlift saga. For me it was very nostalgic.

Halverson started the candy parachutes with two sticks of gum that he broke in half and handed to four kids standing at a Tempelhof fence. That led him to the idea of fashioning small parachutes of handkerchiefs and small bits of cloth and dropping chocolate bars, lollipops, gum and other candies to children who often gathered under the flight path of the approaches to the airfield.

When talking to a group of the German children he was told they didn't know which of the planes (one came in every three minutes) was his. He said he would wiggle his wings as he approached. That led to one of his nicknames Onkle Wackelflugel (wiggly wings). Other nicknames were Schokoladen Flieger, Schokoladen Soldaten and one I remember, lollipop soldaten.

Best wishes to all you guys and gals who like me were in the U.S. Army Air Force and then (late in 1948) in the United States Air Force.

Dave Beasley (dbeasley2@fuse.net)

Returnees

The names listed below are members who have recently discovered our association or who are returning.

Chuck Ballweg - Allen, Texas
Pruem, 1956 - 1960

Royal R Journey - Port Ludlow, WA 98365
615th Pruem, 1953-1957

Jesse E. Daugherty - Clarkesville, GA 30523

John Hollie - Henderson, TX 75652
601st Rothwesten, 1957-1959

Werner R. "K" Koelln, Alamogordo, NM 88310
Celle, Det 100 1963-1966,
Wiesbaden, 1972-1976

Marvin Shults "Corky", Satsuma, FL 32189
601st Rothwesten, 1951-1953

Frank Gentile, Alamogordo, NM 88310
601st, Cello

Jerry Schrantz Sarasota, Florida.
601st Rothwesten, 1951 to 1954.

Alan J. Kitchen Tempe, AZ
601st Rothwesten,
Pfortzheim, 1953 - 1956



**If you go to this web site:
www.letsaythanks.com, you can pick out a thank you card and Xerox will print it and send it to a soldier that is currently serving overseas. You can't pick out who gets it, but it will go to some member of the armed services.**

Jeanetta Teague



2010 Reunion Hotel

The 2010 Reunion will take place on **April 25-30, 2010** in Santa Fe, NM.

We will be staying at the “Santa Fe COURTYARD by Marriott” 3347 Cerrillos Road Santa Fe, NM 87507

The cost per night is \$75.00 (all tax included) For reservations please call: 800-777-3347 or 800-321-2211

We have a block of 20 rooms. Reservation due date is: **Friday, April 2, 2010**, after which rooms not reserved will be returned to the general inventory.

Please make your reservations under “601st&615th”

Room accommodations:

Remote control flat screen TV’s	Mini refrigerators
Room service, dining, wine, cocktails	In room movies and HBO
High-speed wireless Internet	Individual climate control
Speakerphones and desk	Ironing facilities and hairdryers

For your pleasure, we will have our own Hospitality Room!
You will receive a 20% discount for a Full Breakfast every morning.
Complimentary shuttle to Santa Fe’s historic plaza!
Free Parking! Some RV Parking!

The hotel features:

Castle Ranch Steakhouse & Lounge	Heated in door swimming pool and whirlpool
Contemporary fitness center	Poolside grill; courtyard fire pits,
24-hour business center with guest Internet and printer	Expansive lobby, atrium and conversational areas
Three landscaped courtyards for guest relaxation	Massage therapy and spa services by appointment

The Santa Fe Courtyard integrates the timeless beauty of colonial Spain with the aesthetics of Native America, while assuring the modern conveniences and refreshing service expected from Marriott Hospitality. The Courtyard is located just minutes from the historic Santa Fe plaza, and to scenic natural wonders, championship golf, whitewater adventure, world-renowned eateries, mineral springs and spas, casinos and to a myriad of fabulous galleries and theaters.

Also, be aware, that Santa Fe is located in the mountains at an altitude of 7000 feet. The air is thinner and it takes some adjusting to become accustomed to the high altitude.

We hope that many of you will take your vacations during this time and attend the 2010 Reunion of the ‘601st&615th ACW&S Association.’ This is definitely an opportunity of a lifetime.

A partial agenda for our week in Santa Fe is included in this issue of the news letter. A full agenda will follow in January and will be posted on our website at:

<http://www.601st-615th-acw.org>

Here is the website for the hotel, in case you wish to study all the features:

www.santafecourtyard.com

REUNION 2010

I am still working on the Agenda for the 2010 Reunion in Santa Fe. However here are some highlights of the agenda.

On Tuesday, April 27, 2010, a “Destination Southwest” tour guide and deluxe motor coach will meet you at the Courtyard by Marriot. We will take a driving tour of Santa Fe, the capital of New Mexico.

We will continue on to the Plaza for an ‘optional walking tour’ and group picture taking session. Our tour will take us to such points of interest as the historic Plaza, St. Francis Cathedral, the Loretto Chapel, with its famous “miraculous” staircase, and the San Miguel Mission.

Founded in 1610, Santa Fe was the last stop on the Camino Real, the fabled Royal Road that stretched from Mexico City to the northernmost reaches of the Spanish Empire. Today it is the heart and soul of the Southwest and “Santa Fe Style” is synonymous with all the best the region has to offer. Its historic Plaza, winding streets, covered arcades, hidden gardens and courtyards, and Pueblo style architecture reflect the blending of Indian, Hispanic, and Anglo cultures. Our members will be able take the free shuttle from the hotel to their own points of interest.

On Wednesday, April 28, 2010, we will have a guided tour to the surrounding area, starting at 10:00 AM and ending at 6:00 PM. Our tour will cover the historic village of Chimayo, which dates from the seventeenth century.

Its most famous landmark is a venerable religious shrine, the Santuario de Chimayo. Don Bernardo de Abeyta erected this beautiful adobe chapel with twin bell towers in 1816 over sand that is said to have miraculous healing qualities. The weavers of Chimayo have produced

the colorful and decorative Rio Grande Textiles for centuries. We will visit an artisan-weaving workshop and see the weavers at work.

At the Rancho de Chimayo Restaurant, known for its traditional northern New Mexico Cuisine we will enjoy a hosted lunch.

On to Los Alamos, selected by the Federal Government in 1942 as the site of the top-secret Manhattan Project, for a visit to the Bradbury Museum, which is operated by the Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL). At the museum, you will learn how LANL scientists are using the latest technologies to deal with the complex challenges of today’s world, including issues of national security, energy, transportation, and commercial applications of military technology.

Arrive in Bandelier National Monument, best known for its mesas, sheer walled canyons, and the ancestral Pueblo dwellings found among them. The Park was designed in 1916 and named for the nineteenth-century anthropologist Adolph Bandelier. Frijoles Canyon is famous for its extensive Anasazi ruins and cliff dwellings that date back to about 1100 AD.

As always, I am trying to keep the price affordable for all of you to enjoy these tours. I am still in the “negotiating stage” to get the best price.

However, this gives you an idea what we will be doing and enjoying during our reunion week. I hope you will be able to join us in Santa Fe for the 2010 Reunion, April 25-30, 2010.

Please make your reservation early at the Courtyard by Marriott.

I will be sending cards out with all the information in January. If you are a paid member, you will receive such a card.

The dues for 2010 are \$20.00 dollars and they are payable by January 31st, 2010. Please make your checks out to the treasurer and mail to:

Howard Dickey
27382 450th Street
Leonard, MN 56652

2010 Census Cautions

This information is being distributed by the Dallas / Ft. Worth IBM Organization to warn it's thousands of members of fraud associated with the 2010 Census (some pre-census activity is already underway). However, this warning is for ALL citizens, so you may want to pass it on to everyone you know.

Be Cautious about Giving Info to Census Workers.

With the U.S. Census process beginning, the Better Business Bureau (BBB) advises people to be cooperative, but cautious, so as not to become a victim of fraud or identity theft. The first phase of the 2010 U.S. Census is under way, as workers have begun verifying the addresses of households across the country. Eventually, more than 140,000 U.S. census workers will count every person in the United States and will gather information about every person living at each address including name, age, gender, race, and other relevant data. The big question is - how do you tell the difference between a U.S. Census worker and a con artist? BBB offers the following advice:

** If a U.S. Census worker knocks on your door, they will have a badge, a handheld device, a Census Bureau canvas bag, and a confidentiality notice. Ask to see their identification and their badge before answering their questions. However, you should **never** invite anyone you do not know into your home.

** Census workers are currently only knocking on doors to verify address information. **Do not give your Social Security number, credit card or banking information to anyone**, even if they claim they need it for the U.S. Census. While the Census Bureau might ask for basic financial information, such as a salary range, it will not ask for Social Security, bank account, or credit card numbers, nor will employees solicit donations.

Eventually, Census workers may contact you by telephone, mail, or in person at home. However, they will not contact you by Email, so be on the lookout for Email scams impersonating the Census.

Never click on a link or open any attachments in an Email that seem to be from the U.S. Census Bureau.

For more advice on avoiding identity theft and fraud, visit www.bbb.org

Will Hanson

Recipes for Christmas

All you people who love to bake at Christmas or any other time of the year will enjoy this website.

<http://www.northpole.com/Kitchen/Cookbook/>

Here is one of the dozens of recipes on the site.

Santa's Butterscotch Melts

Ingredients

As needed melted butter or oil for greasing pans

3 tablespoons butter

2 tablespoons soft brown sugar

3/4 cup self-raising flour

1/4 cup custard powder

1 teaspoon water

1 packet chocolate bits

Directions

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Brush biscuit trays (32x28cm) with melted butter or oil. With electric mixer, beat butter and sugar in the mixing bowl until it is light and creamy. Put in sifted flour and custard powder, stir with wooden spoon, then add water. Stir until it is all mixed well together. Take one teaspoon of mixture and gently roll into a ball - place on biscuit tray - repeat with the remaining mixture. Flatten each ball slightly with a fork. Bake for 15 minutes or until the biscuits are golden brown. Let them cool on trays. To decorate the biscuits, melt a packet of chocolate bits in a bowl in the microwave and dip half of each biscuit into the chocolate. Place in frig for 10 minutes so chocolate will set.

Richard Roan

Computer screen cleaning

I have only recently learned that all computer screens on the inside are covered with bacteria, dust, germs, etc. that can be dangerous to your health. This is caused by a variety of reasons which could be a health hazard for everyone that uses the computer.

Some at the CDC in Atlanta, said that this problem can be as dangerous as cigarette smoking because of the time that most of us are now spending on the computer for work and personal reasons.

Click on this link to clean the inside of your screen:

<http://www.raincitystory.com/flash/screenclean.swf>

Francis Gosselin

Older Crowd

A distraught senior citizen phoned her doctor's office. 'Is it true,' she wanted to know, 'that the medication you prescribed has to be taken for the rest of my life?'

'Yes, I'm afraid so,' the doctor told her. There was a moment of silence before the senior lady replied,

'I'm wondering, then, just how serious is my condition because this prescription is marked 'NO REFILLS'.'

An older gentleman was on the operating table awaiting surgery and he insisted that his son, a renowned surgeon, perform the operation. As he was about to get the anesthesia, he asked to speak to his son.

'Yes, Dad, what is it?' 'Don't be nervous, son; do your best and just remember, if it doesn't go well, if something happens to me, your mother is going to come and live with you and your wife.'

Aging

Eventually you will reach a point when you stop lying about your age and start bragging about it.

The older we get, the fewer things seem worth waiting in line for.

Some people try to turn back their odometers. Not me! I want people to know 'why' I look this way. I've traveled a long way and some of the roads weren't paved.

First you forget names, then you forget faces. Then you forget to pull up your zipper. It's worse when you forget to pull it down.

Two old guys are pushing their carts around Wal-Mart when they collide. The first old guy says to the second guy, 'Sorry about that. I'm looking for my wife, and I guess I wasn't paying attention to where I was going.' The second old guy says, 'That's OK, it's a coincidence. I'm looking for my wife, too. I can't find her and I'm getting a little desperate.' The first old guy says, 'Well, maybe I can help you find her. What does she look like?' The second old guy says, 'Well, she is 27 yrs old, tall, with red hair, blue eyes, long legs, and is wearing short shorts. What does your wife look like?' To which the first old guy says, 'Doesn't matter, let's look for yours.'

The Wedding Fairy

A married couple in their early 60's was celebrating their 40th Wedding Anniversary in a quiet, romantic little restaurant. Suddenly, a tiny yet beautiful fairy appeared on their table. She said, "For being such an exemplary married couple and for loving each other for all this time, I will grant you each a wish."

The wife answered, "Oh, I want to travel around the world with my darling husband." The fairy waved her magic wand and - poof! - two tickets for the Queen Mary II appeared in her hands.

The husband thought for a moment:

"Well, this is all very romantic, but an opportunity like this will never come again. I'm sorry my love, but my wish is to have a wife 30 years younger than I."

The wife, and the fairy, were deeply disappointed, but a wish is a wish. Therefore, the fairy waved her magic wand and poof! The husband became 93 years old.

The moral of this story: Men who are ungrateful should remember fairies are female.

Don Reed

Cliff's Knowledge and Wisdom at Cheers

"Well, you see Norm it's like this...A herd of buffalo can only move as fast as the slowest buffalo. In addition, when the herd is hunted, it is the slowest and weakest ones at the back that are killed first. This natural selection is good for the herd as a whole, because the general speed and health of the whole groups keeps improving by the regular killing of the weakest members.

In much the same way, the human brain can only operate as fast as the slowest brain cells. Now, as we know, excessive intake of alcohol kills brain cells, but naturally, it attacks the slowest and weakest brain cells first. In this way, regular consumption of beer eliminates the weaker brain cells, making the brain a faster more efficient machine. And that, Norm is why you always feel smarter after a few beers."

Will Hanson



**Happy New
Year
2010!**

