



# P r o s i t !



News Letter of the 601<sup>ST</sup>, 615<sup>TH</sup> ACWRON Association Vol I Number 4 June 2010

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## Message From The President

From the President's desk

Once again we have come to the end of of a joyful reunion here in the foothill's of Santa Fe, NM. It is sad that several of our members had to depart prior to the most enjoyable part of the whole week.

Fay & Eddie Von Hatten entertained us with several music endeavors. All the members present joined in several hours of singing to close our last enjoyable moments together. In the future this intertainment event should be scheduled earlier so that all might take part in it. It was a wonderful moment that should be shared by all. Thank you, Fay & Eddie

I'm hope that as things settle down there will be more items submitted from the people just now returning to their homes.

*Francis X Gosselin*

### An Editorial and a Simple Request

It is difficult to produce an organizational newsletter when there is no input from the membership at large of the organization. Unless I receive material from the people around whom the organization is based, the newsletter becomes the voice of several members who have taken the time to submit material they find interesting. There are several things you, the readers, could do to make this publication your voice.

If you have anecdotes about things you or friends did while in Rothwesten or any of the outlying sites others might find them interesting and nostalgic. This is the kind of material this publication needs.

When I think back on my time on Wasserkuppe I often wonder what happened to.... (Name an old buddy or co-worker) The newsletter would be an excellent bulletin board for posing those kinds of questions.

Is there anyone in the group interested in...

Golfing... stamp collecting ... wine making... electronics. (you name it) if so please contact me at (your email address) The results may surprise you.

Give us your ideas about the direction the newsletter should take. The directors have theirs, I have mine, let's hear some of yours.

What did you find remarkable or unusual about the trips you took during the reunion? Was the food great, or just food? Did the heat overwhelm you during the day?

Please make my job and your newsletter more interesting by doing more than repeating material that is circulated everyday on the internet. We have a common bond, the 601st/615th AC&W Squadrons and should build on that.

This issue has been hastily created and the following issues will hopefully contain detailed information about the actions and events of the reunion.

*The Editor*

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## 2010 Reunion Re-Cap

The 2010 Reunion for the 601<sup>st</sup>&615<sup>th</sup> ACW&S Association took place on April 25-30, 2010 at the "Court-yard by Marriott" in Santa Fe, New Mexico. 47 attendees enjoyed several days of great fun. Many attendees arrived on Saturday, even though the festivities did not start until Monday. Monday morning, registration took place in the Hospitality Room and in the evening a 'Welcome Reception' was enjoyed, catered by the hotel's kitchen staff.

Tuesday morning at 10:00 AM the bus from 'Destination Southwest' picked the group up at the Courtyard by Marriott and the first stop was with the photographer 'Babak' on Museum Hill for the annual pictures. We commenced to take a driving tour through the hillside of Santa Fe, viewing all the celebrity homes our guide 'Robin' pointed out. Robin was an amazing tour guide with an enormous background and historical knowledge, sprinkled with good humor.

On this tour we visited 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. On the walking tour we explored the famous historic Plaza, walked the winding streets, admired the covered arcades, hidden gardens and courtyards; and shopped here and there at the stands of street vendors. Everybody ate lunch with their friends at a restaurant of their choice on the Plaza. Tired and happy we were back at the hotel at 5:00 PM.

The evening was enjoyed by all in the Hospitality Room visiting and reminiscing with friends. For me the next day was the most spectacular day of the trip!

We travelled north to 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 Abeyta erected this beautiful adobe chapel with twin towers in 1816 over sand that is said to have miraculous healing qualities. We all scooped up a shovel full of sand and took it home in case of need!

We visited an artisan weaving shop and watched the weavers at work. The weavers of Chimayo have produced the colorful and decorative Rio Grande textiles for centuries.

A hosted lunch was provided for the group at the 'Rancho de Chimayo Restaurant.' We enjoyed traditional

northern New Mexico cuisine in a warm and hospitable atmosphere.

After lunch the bus took us to Los Alamos, selected by the Federal Government in 1942 as the site of the top secret 'Manhattan Project'. There we visited the Bradbury Science Museum, which is operated by Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL). At the museum we learned how LANL Scientists are using the latest technologies to deal with the complex challenges of today's world.

On to the 'Bandelier National Monument', best known for its mesas, sheer-walled canyons, amazing scenery and the ancestral Pueblo dwellings found among them. The Park was designed in 1916 and named for the nineteenth-century anthropologist Adolph Bandelier. Many of us walked a mile to Frijoles Canyon to take pictures of the famous and extensive Anasazi ruins and cliff dwellings that date back to about 1100 AD. Our trip back to the hotel lead us through a magnificent landscape with the sun setting on top of the mountains. It was a full day and much enjoyed by everyone.

Thursday morning we held our Annual Meeting called to order by President Francis Gosselin. The Annual Secretary Minutes will render more information at a later date, but just to share some of the discussion with you:

The 2011 Reunion will take place in Biloxi, MS on April 24-29, 2011.

A Military Cruise is offered with "Carnival Freedom", leaving from Ft. Lauderdale, Cozumel, Limon, Costa Rica, Colon, Panama, fun days at sea and back to Ft. Lauderdale. The cruise is January 15-23, 2011 and is organized for Veterans by Veterans. Francis G. encouraged folks to make reservations for the cruise, if they care to go.

Mrs. Lucy Vaughan presented a quilt to me for the work I am doing in behalf of the reunions. The pattern is called: Arkansas crossroads. I consider it a real "Labor of Love" and will treasure this beautiful gift forever. My heartfelt Thanks to Lucy!

Thursday evening we had our Annual Dinner in the Atrium Dining Room of the hotel. It was a well-catered dinner and some of the dishes were superb. Afterwards all ventured to the Hospitality Room for the evening's entertainment.

Ed Von Hatten had his ukulele along and we all sang old English and German Songs, accompanied by Ed. I even performed a solo song and hopefully next year we will have more entertainment. It was great fun and everybody loved it. Perhaps we will start the Reunion next year with a "song fest."

On Friday morning a FREE Breakfast was offered by Treasurer Howard Dickey as a farewell token. Again the food was catered by the hotel's caterer and served in the

Atrium. The chef outdid himself with his breakfast selections. Soon it was time to part from old and new friends and already we are looking forward to BILOXI in April 2011.

This is an amazing group of people, who enjoy each others company very much. It always warms my heart to see them every year and when they all have fun it is my best reward as their reunion coordinator.

Auf Wiedersehen in Biloxi, April 2011!

Submitted by

Fay Dickey, Secretary/Events coordinator  
601<sup>st</sup>&615<sup>th</sup> ACW&S Association

### Reviews of the reunion

Our reunion in Santa Fe was interesting and fun from the first day to our closing dinner, which featured good food, entertainment and even a sing along! The bus trips were fun and very informative. One day was a tour of Santa Fe showing us neighborhoods, historical sites, churches and religious sites, native arts shopping opportunities, restaurants featuring local dishes and local watering holes. The second bus trip was to Los Alamos and Bandelier Monument. This is like going from modern day living back to the cave dwellings of centuries ago. Our guide was funny, entertaining and full of little known facts about everything we saw. The bus trips greatly enhanced our reunion and helped people get to know each other better. Saying "good-bye" at breakfast on the last day was a time of many hugs and voices saying "keep in touch" and "see you next year in Biloxi". Watch for news about the reunion for next year in Biloxi.

*LoAnne Zentner*

To every one

Dee and I want to thank you for making our first reunion so enjoyable. You can rest assured that we are looking forward to the next reunion in Biloxi.

To Fay and Howard, and to "Goose", a special thanks for a job well

This event was very well organized. There is no way we can thank you enough. As for all the other "Vets" and their wives', we felt very comfortable and made friends with some wonderful people.

The two tours we took were great. Robin and Martin made it happen. Personality plus. The sites we visited were interesting. All in all, it was a great experience.

Best regards to all.

*Dick and Dee Butler*

### A Kassel Memoir

BONITA SPRINGS, Fla. - A World War II veteran with a very unique story will be honored on Memorial Day in Bonita Springs. Orland Jack Schooley survived being shot down during a bombing run in one of the most devastating attacks in U.S. Air Force history.

On September 27, 1944, a bombing mission into Germany would go down as the highest loss in history for a bomber group in a single day's battle. At the time, Schooley was a staff sergeant.

"B-24 liberator, four engine, I was tail gunner and we got hit," Schooley recalls.

His was one of 20 b-24's to go down in a forest near Kassel, Germany.

"I got blown out of the sky," Schooley said. "We're at 22-thousand feet, and I'm in the seat, not strapped in, and I just hit my button and the chute took me right off the seat."

He was the only one out of a crew of 9 to survive

"I was hit with seven pieces of shrapnel in the right ankle and I was bleeding to death."

But that was only the beginning. He would be captured by German forces.

"I was nine months, a prisoner of war. It put a stamp on me."

An emotional stamp, he wouldn't soon forget. And neither would the family members of the pilot who flew them into battle. Just recently, the Kassel Mission Society out of Michigan and family members found Schooley here in southwest Florida 66 years after the infamous mission over Kassel, grateful to be alive.

Schooley says given the chance, he would do it all again.

"Do it for my country, do what you're supposed to do. I don't run from it, I face it," he said.

Schooley will be recognized for his service at a Memorial Day ceremony at Riverside Park in Bonita Springs Monday at 9am.

*Will Hanson*

## Five Summer Swimming Safety Tips

Nothing says summer vacation like warm days spent at the pool or a quick weekend retreat to the beach. Whether you're jumping waves in the ocean or splashing around in a pool, these tips from the Federal Citizen Information Center will help keep you and your family safe this summer.

- **Teach your kids to swim.** Check for [swimming lessons](#) in your area on USA.gov. Giving your kids the basic water skills they need will go a long way in keeping them safe.

- **Keep an eye on your kids.** With lots of kids splashing around in public pools, it's easy for someone to get dunked by accident. · [Know where your kids are](#) so if you see them go under you can make sure they come right back up.

- **Check your drains.** If you have your own pool, make sure your drains meet the [safety standards](#). Drains that don't could catch children's hair and pull them to the bottom of the pool very forcefully.

- **Don't panic in a rip tide.** Before you or your kids go in the ocean, make sure you all know what to do if you get caught in a rip tide. · [The key to staying safe](#) is to try to swim parallel to the shore. Don't fight your way directly back to the beach, but swim sideways until you are out of the current. Wave for a lifeguard and they'll help get you back to shore safely.

- **Play it safe in the lake.** Lake water can be murky, making it hard to see what hides below the surface. ·

[Wear water shoes](#) to protect your feet from sharp rocks or other debris. And don't swim too far from shore. You may not realize how far you've gone until you try to stand and can't find the bottom. For more ideas on how to stay safe in the water, check out the advice in [Water Safety for Swimmers](#).

Playing in the water should be a fun family activity. Use these tips from the Federal Citizen Information Center and your family can stay safe while cooling off.

<http://www.pueblo.gsa.gov/aboutus/newaboutus.shtml>

*The Editor*

## A Delayed Answer

Some time ago someone (don't remember who) asked me if I knew where he could buy a copy of the Mox Nix book by Jack Niles of the 601st at Rothwesten. I stumbled on this link at Amazon.com. They show two; one for \$9.95 and one for \$25. (No picture)

[http://www.amazon.com/Mox-nix-Cartoons-about-Europe/dp/B0007JDIHQ/ref=tmm\\_other\\_title\\_2](http://www.amazon.com/Mox-nix-Cartoons-about-Europe/dp/B0007JDIHQ/ref=tmm_other_title_2)

*W. Hanson*

## Computer Care and Advice

### Avoid commands to press the F1 key

While browsing on the web, a notice is given to press your F1 key (that's across top left of your keyboard, and usually means "Help". Not this time. It will release a potent virus in your computer. If you don't press F1, you will be reminded until you do disregard those instructions to press F1. Just click on the little 'x' on the window to close the window, or close your browser totally - might even be better to reboot.

Click on the SNOPEs link below for further confirmation at of this threat.

Do **not** press the F1 key no matter how many times your computer asks you to.

<http://www.snopes.com/>

*Will Hanson*

## A Request from the Keeper of the Records

Address change?

If your name, status, or address change, please let us know by e-mail.

Send the e-mail to [faydickey@gvtel.com](mailto:faydickey@gvtel.com)



*Wilfredo Rodriquez*

## General Inquiries

Can anyone out give me information on several airmen who were stationed on Wasserkuppe during the years 1953 - 1956? Their names were Ricardo Gomes from the 602nd, Charlie Adams, Ray Levesque and Ted Collis. We were all members of the Direction Finding Unit and spent a lot of time playing Pinochle in the "Club." If anyone can help Email me at: [k2ogd@suddenlink.net](mailto:k2ogd@suddenlink.net).

*Don Reed*

**Your comments and ideas will help fill up the white spaces and will make for enjoyable reading!**

### Forwarding Emails Properly

To all re-senders of emails, Please take a few minutes to read the following information concerning the re-sending or 'forwarding' the emails we receive from friends and relatives.

Here is something everyone should read and take the advice. If you don't, you're hurting yourself and your email buddies.

By now, I suspect everyone is familiar with:

<http://www.snopes.com> and/or  
<http://www.truthorfiction.com>

for determining whether information received via email is true/false or fact/fiction. Both are excellent sites.

The following is from Snopes.com and is important information.

(1) When you forward an email, DELETE all of the other addresses that appear in the body of the message (at the top). That's right, DELETE them.

You MUST click the 'Forward' button first and then you will have full editing capabilities against the body and headers of the message. If you don't click on 'Forward' first, you won't be able to edit the message at all.

(2) Whenever you send an email to more than one person, do NOT use the To: or Cc: fields for adding email addresses. Always use the BCC: (blind carbon copy) field for listing the email addresses. This is the way the people you send to will only see their own email address.

If you don't see your BCC: option click on where it says To: and your address list will appear. Highlight the address and choose BCC: and that's it, it's that easy.

When you send to BCC: your message will automatically say 'Undisclosed Recipients' in the 'TO:' field of the people who receive it.

(3)

Remove any 'FW :' in the subject line. You can re-name the subject if you wish or even fix spelling.

(4) ALWAYS hit your Forward button from the actual email you are reading.

(5) Have you ever got an email that is a petition?

It states a position and asks you to add your name and address and to forward it to 10 or 15 people or your entire address book. The email can be forwarded on and on and can collect thousands of names and email addresses.

A FACT: The completed petition is actually worth a couple of bucks to a professional spammer because of the wealth of valid names and email addresses contained therein.

If you want to support the petition, send it as your own personal letter to the intended recipient. Your position may carry more weight as a personal letter than a laundry list of names and email address on a petition.

(Actually, if you think about it, who's supposed to send the petition in to whatever cause it supports? And don't believe the ones that say that the email is being traced, it just ain't so!)

(6) One of the main ones I hate is the ones that say that something like, 'Send this email to 10 people and you'll see something great run across your screen.' Or, sometimes they'll just tease you by saying something really cute will happen.

**IT AINT GONNA HAPPEN!!!!**

(Trust me, I'm still seeing some of the same ones that I waited on 10 years ago!) I don't let the bad luck ones scare me either, they get trashed.

(7) Before you forward an Amber Alert, or a Virus Alert, or some of the other ones floating around nowadays, check them out before you forward them.

Most of them are junk mail that have been circling the net for YEARS! Just about everything you receive in an email that is in question can be checked out at Snopes.

Just go to <http://www.snopes.com>”

Its really easy to find out if it's real or not. If it's not, please don't pass it on. So please, in the future, let's stop the junk mail and the viruses.

Finally, here's an idea!!! Let's send this to everyone we know (but strip my address off first, please). And send them using the BBC (Blind Carbon Copy.)

This is something that SHOULD be forwarded .”



**A New kind of Trooper**