

the HOF CONNECTION newsletter

January 2004

2004 REUNION TO BE HELD IN BILOXI, MS **25 - 29 OCTOBER**

After much debate, the Association Board of Directors voted to move the 2004 Reunion to Biloxi, MS. Association President Jim Patterson inspected the facilities and negotiated a contract with the Imperial Palace Hotel-Casino in Biloxi. The Imperial Palace will provide rooms for \$49 a night (Suites \$79). All rooms have coffeemakers, hairdryers, irons, dataports, and cable TV. The Imperial Palace will also provide a complimentary hospitality suite and banquet facilities free for our activities. Hotel amenities include a full casino, Cinema 6 (six theaters), three fine-dining restaurants, four casual-dining restaurants, three snack areas, Bonkerz Comedy Club, Spa Caribe, several retail shops (clothing, food, sundries, and signature items), Ippys Fun Zone video arcade, and an outdoor swimming pool with seven waterfalls. Room service, valet service, bell service, and free covered and valet parking are also available. The reunion registration fee is expected to be \$78.00 per person. The registration fee will cover the cost of the social/reception buffet, banquet dinner, Auf Wiedersehen Breakfast, dance music, nametags, banquet programs, reunion packages and other miscellaneous expenses. Complete details and registration forms will be mailed in May to members that fill in and return the attached Biloxi Reunion Questionnaire.

Justification for the Change of Venue

The San Antonio Convention & Visitors Bureau ignored the initial (RFP) request for proposals personally submitted by Bennie Hopper. Our second request did show some activity and resulted in a telephone call from a professional organizer but somehow slipped through the cracks at the Convention Bureau without any action. After consultation with Convention Bureau Top Management, action was immediately initiated. We received a call from the person that set on the first two request and suddenly Hotels in the San Antonio area with facilities capable of handling a reunion of 400 plus responded. Few were willing to lower their rates below \$80.00 + 16.75 Tax (The majority were \$99.00 a night + tax and a \$7 to \$12 a night parking fee). The Omni Hotel did offer a rate of 74.95 + 16.75% tax and free parking for the first week in September, which is too hot and, during the hurricane season. After the Association Board voted to move the Hof Reunion to Biloxi, the San Antonio Airport Hilton lowered their rate to \$74.00 + 16.75% tax and offered free parking in attempt to get us back to San Antonio. October is apparently a high demand month for San Antonio. Our Board of Directors fulfilled their obligation to serve the best interest of our entire membership.

EXECUTIVE ADVISORY BOARD – **Tom Bryson**

Viva Las Vegas!

Elvis didn't make this party but people who have seen him lately say he expressed regret.

Tuesday afternoon, at our delicious informal buffet dinner, Traudl Riggins vibrant, resonant and crystalline voice filled the hall with patriotic American and German folk songs, Ralph Glover captivated us with his marvelous rendition of "Lazy Boy", and E.T.Row, Steve Murphrey, Mike Buttell and Tom Mikloiche took us down memory lane with their 5 minute talks. JoAnn Fukumoto gave us a Hula demonstration and invited everyone to join in on the dance floor. We had the time of our lives and without grass skirts. Traudl Riggins led a German sing-along and it was fantastic! She and Jim distributed printed copies of the lyrics so none of us really had to know any of the songs to participate and if we got lost in the German and had to resort to nonsense syllables – no problem! With Traudl's beautiful voice filling the conversion center we all sounded like we knew what we were doing. It was pure fun.

On Wednesday, thanks to the Tour Planner E.T.Row, the Hoover Dam excited and awed everyone by virtue of its sheer mass and sense of engineering achievement, having been built at a time lacking the advanced construction

technology of today. What a contrast to go from there to the Valley of Fire desert – no less inspiring than the dam but engineered by God and nature instead of men and tools. Two great wonders, seen in one day, the back to the conviviality and Gemütlichkeit of the Stardust Hospitality Suite and legendary Las Vegas.

Thursday night we had the pleasure of hearing several comical stories from former “Hofers”. Boeing Engineer, Norman Hines told about the 6915th loaning a heater to the 602nd that ended up burning down Radar Operations, former Commander, Col. John Stevenson told of his experience dealing with the Army, Col. Marion Bacon Oelke, the first female Shift Commander, reminded us ☺ just how masculine that facility was ... Marion was followed Lt. Col. Leon Weston, the commander that closed the Hof Kaserne. Leon and his wife Dottie told of organizing the 1996 Las Vegas reunion that attracted about 43 former Hof Colleagues. Last, but not least, Capt. Sean Cotter, Executive Officer of the US Air Force Thunderbird Acrobatic Flying Team provided a very informative briefing on the Thunderbird mission. Capt. Cotter expressed his astonishment with the Hof Reunion Association and the fact that after 35 years, the Hof Family of more than 300 gathered to renew old acquaintances and create new friendships. We also observed a moving memorial to our fallen comrades, then had music and dancing provided by the “Dummkopfs” – attired in comic Wagnerian motif – they turned out to be a great little band. Helen Toni closed out the evening with her Scottish ballad “Haste Ye Back”. Helen’s heart touching solo is becoming a tradition. The wet bar remained open throughout the evening.

Our own Hospitality Suite operated during most of the reunion and provided a convenient gathering place for everyone to meet and interact with old friends and new acquaintances during their leisure, and leisure was not at a premium, there was enough unplanned time to thoroughly relax and enjoy the week.. If you missed it, you should be kicking yourself and marking your calendar for this year’s event.

So kick yourself, mark the calendar, put some money aside and tell the kids and grandkids you’ll be away for a week come October. We’ll gather on the longest man made beach in the world, the little “Las Vegas of the South”, Biloxi, Mississippi. **See you there!**

EXECUTIVE ADVISOR – **Tom Nickerson**

Monika and I wish to “Thank” our entire “Hof Family” for the support provided during my year as President of this GREAT Association. A special “thank you” to all the Las Vegas Reunion volunteers that worked and served as attendants in the Stardust Hospitality Suite. You did an outstanding job. We personally feel that it is the individual member’s contribution that is making this Association so successful and the reunions so fun. Freddy & Helga Bales, Sid & Gale Futrell, Dean & Shirley Thompson, Don Bodiker, Barbara Chapman, Eddie Crump, Don Riverkamp, Phil & Jo Murray, John & Robyn Dorsch,, Don & Marlene Fields, Carol Barron, John Jack, Don Ridgeway, Jerry & Pat Mangas,, William Patton. Bob & Lilo Sherwood, Tony & Lynn Cameron, John & Carol Scholl, George & Crista Fahrback, Tom & Denise Bryson, Hanna Bryson. Please extend your fine support to our successor’s, Jim & Eadie Patterson. Monika and I are looking forward to seeing all of you again in October at the Imperial Palace in Biloxi.

TREASURER – **Nathan Sparks**

I would like to thank the attending members of the Hof Reunion in Las Vegas for reelecting me as your treasurer for another year. It has been a great pleasure working with the officers and members of this great organization. The charitable donation of \$1,000.00 was mailed to the Air Force Enlisted Village, Shalimar, FL as voted on by the reunion attendees. The Air Force Enlisted Foundation provides surviving spouses requiring financial assistance a place to live among peers, sharing memories of Air Force life without the stigma normally associated with subsidized housing. We also have received a letter from the Air Force Enlisted Village thanking the Hof Reunion Membership for their donation. CMSAF James C Binnicker’s letter quoted in part, your support to the widows and residents of the Air Force Enlisted Village is vital to our success. When groups like yours generously support them, they know they are still a part of the Air Force Family. The bills relating to Las Vegas Reunion have been paid and our balance as of December 31, 2003 is \$7,121.03. In an effort to reduce mailing cost, we have purchased a Nonprofit Standard Bulk Mail Permit from the United States Post Office. Therefore, the Master Roster will be printed in bulk and mailed to active members in October. The renewal rosters and other communications to members after October will be mailed in

increments of 200 pieces. The annual membership dues are our only source of income and of course the members that volunteer their time. The new fiscal year began October 1, 2003 (FY 04) and if you have not mailed in your renewal check, please do so at your earliest convenience.

PRESIDENT – Jim Patterson

Las Vegas and the excitement of other fabulous reunions are pleasant memories. Now it's time to start planning our route to the beautiful Gulf Coast and Biloxi, Mississippi. I look forward to these reunions like a child looks forward to Christmas. Seeing all of you is just as exciting as opening those imaginary gifts. We hate to admit it, but we are all advancing in age. I'll be 74 by the time I get to Biloxi and I know that sooner or later one of these reunions will be my last. I intend to move that one as far into the future as I possibly can. Our lives are short enough so let's make the best of the time we've got left and try to attend the Hof Reunion every year. We are a dedicated, patriotic group of Veterans who are much better behaved than when we were young GI's (thank God for that). I'm sure those folks on the Gulf Coast are ready for that "Touch of Class" that we always seem to deliver. Edie and I are looking forward to seeing our many established friends, many new friends and anticipate meeting those former Hof Colleagues that will be attending the reunion for the first time.

VICE PRESIDENT – Bruce Orr

The Association Board continues to hear stories of the fun, good times, and even the "luck" some of you had in Las Vegas. Those of us that were able to attend our little shindig had personal memories of Hof bubble back to the surface of our mind. The highlight for me was listening to the personal stories as related by speakers at the Banquet. Marion Oelke's story of being locked in a bathroom brought down the house with howls of laughter. The German music presented by the "Dummkopfs" brought back other happy reminiscences of Hof's annual Volksfest and the good times at the Freiheitshalle.

Although it's many months away, your Board of Directors is already working on the program for our next gala in Biloxi. Many of our Association members attended technical training at Keesler AFB and therefore will definitely want to attend this reunion on the beautiful Gulf Coast. Esther and I are looking forward to seeing many old acquaintances again and making many new friends.

HISTORIAN – Gary Dempsey

Just as in Camelot and Brigadoon, there once was a place and a time in our lives called Hof or Doebraberg, and operational US Military units amid the Bavarian hills and villages. We came, performed our jobs and then departed. Some brought home a pretty Frauelein and others many wonderful memories.

Our Association is about the people that were assigned to these US Military units and the many German friends we left behind. My goal is to initiate an official "Memories of Hof" project utilizing short stories, tales, and anecdotes that you, the membership, can supply. I was assigned to the 6915th from 1960 to 1963, and as I announced at the Las Vegas Reunion, I have volunteered to be the Association Historian and memory miser.

I have a web site www.thedempseyarchives.com/msgboard.mv with a message board that will serve as my "scrap book" or memory album. I'd appreciate the support of every person listed on the Master Hof Roster that has an Internet server. Please place your personal tales and stories in my scrapbook. You are not limited to the number of stories or tales that you provide and they do not have to be lengthy. Just provide some of your memories. Don't worry about grammar or spelling. For you that don't have an Internet server, mail your notes, letters and documents to: Garrett Dempsey, 1260 1st 52nd Street, Whitestone, NY 11357-1838.

If you have newspaper clippings or other “first-person” sources of information, I’d appreciate having a copy of those too. Eventually, if we get enough material together, we’d like to actually publish a little memorial book about our time in our version of an enchanted place that once was important to all of us and now lives on in “Memories of Hof”.

NOTE

If you have an Internet provider and are not receiving the Association weekly email Update, we probably don’t have your current email address. Please contact <HofReunion@aol.com> to see what the problem may be. Please provide your name and correct email address. Your attention to this matter will keep you current on Association activities.

Las Vegas Nevada Reunion Participants

Bob Alekson, Jane Arthur, Joe & Jean Ameling, Arnold & Rose Angel, Mike & Ursula Assenmacher, Eric Bergstrom, Freddy & Helga Bales, Carole & Debra Barron, Jim & Sue Beard, Ron Becker, Gabi & Rose Becker, Tony Becker, Lupe Guzman, James & Gertrude Berry, Gisela Blankenship, Anna Flamos, Don Bodiker, Tom & Denise Bryson, Hanna Bryson, Mike & Barbara Jean Buttell, Tony & Lynn Cameron, Jay C & Mary Roth Campbell, Gary & Sandra Cherpes, Barbara Chapman, Doug & Anneliese Chamberlain, Bonnie Charles, Warren Fortezzo, Don Chesney & Karin Baumgartner, Jack & Sue Coker, Bill & Marcia Combs, Bob & Carol Conrad, George & Irmgard Coursey, Charles Cromer & Jean Foster, Eddie Crump, Don & Ursula Daniels, Peter & Carmen Day, Gary & Kay Dempsey, Greg Dempsey, Jim & Elizabeth Derby, Angela Derby, Jonathan Tanksley, Pat & Kathy DiCintio, Tony & Joan Donofrio, John & Robyn Dorsch, Darrell Dotson, David & Brigitte Durbin, Joe Eberhardt, John & Mindy Elledge, Tom Emerson, Archie & Brenda Emery, Daniel & Dee Engelken, George & Christa Fahrbach, Bob Butler & Elvira Greaves, Tom & JoAnn Stanley, Don & Toot Fields, Ken & Loyen Fielder, John & Bertha Fontes, Mario & Renate Forgione, Gene & Pat Frank, Francis & JoAnn Fukumoto, Sidney & Gayle Futrell, Bruce & Margaret Gallagher, Walt Galvin, Judy Gants, Paul Genung, Milton & Virginia Gibbs, Ralph & Joan Glover, Deborah Grierson, Marty & Alice Habecker, Warren & Elaine Halvorson, Melvin & Ilse Hamill, Smiley & Elaine Hansberger, Jim Haney, Stan & Pat Heath, Jim & Delia Helfer, Norman & Ursula Hines, Delbert Henry, Robert & Hanna Hoerath, Lorilee Hoxie, Dan & Darlene Holden, Paul Holmgren, Tom & Jan Hughes, Ned & Barbara Imboden, John Jack, John & Carole Jacob, Jimmy Kay, Ken & Gay Kielbania, Greg & Sandy Krcma, Ivan & Jane Kukafka, Bob & Ruth Livesey, Bill Main & June Marshall, Jerry & Pat Mangas, Erminio & Corrine Martinez, Bob & Pauline McAuliffe, Charles & Renate Mattice, Michael & Melissa McAuliffe, Jim & Mary McKinney, Jeanie Meredith, Jerry & Hilde Middendorf, Thomas & Inga Mikloiche, John & Sissy Mittermeier, Bob & Barb & Pat Mollahan, Nancy Morgan, Dara Lynn Morgan, Diane Reitmeyer, Paul & Betty Morgan, Doris Moss, Russel Moyer, Steve & Donna Murphrey, Phil & Jo Murray, Dick Nelson, Tom & Monika Nickerson, Harry Nowinski, Roy Benifield, Richard & Evi Obidinski, Heidi Pouch, Roger & Marion Bacon Oelke, Bruce & Esther Orr, John & Francis Orr, Ets & Sally Ouchida, John & Aggie Pace, Chuck & June Parnell, Bill & Gale Partrich, Jim & Eadie Patterson, William PattonEldon(Pete) & Margit Payne, Morris & Karen Petty, Jerry & Ginnie Piehl, Phyllis McKeag Phipps, Larry & Heidimarie Prince, Sharon Combs, Henry & Eleanor Quarterman, Dean & Suzanne Reed, Howard & Patti Resnick, Don Ridgeway, Jack & Pat Rief, Jim & Traudl Rigglin, Don Riverkamp & Jeri Heinzelman, Robby & Katrina Roberson, Louis Rocha & Fern Bordlemay, Robert & Mary Rodamer, Don & Eva-Maria Ross, Eulis & Vera Row, CA Russell, Charles & Hannelore Sausedo, Dan & Carol Scanny, Shiela Scanny, Garry & Ann Schilling, Harvey Schmit, Brent Scott, John & Carol Scholl, Ramon & Frieda Schuety, Gordon & Margaret Schultz, Jim & Helga Shepp, Bob & Lilo Sherwood, Jack Sinagra, Jim & Peggy Slothower, John & Eva-Maria Slutz, Nathan & Ute Sparks, Raymod Startz, Claude & Myrtle Spicer, Barry & Sue Springsteen, Jay D Steger, John & Millie Stevenson, Dean & Shirley Thompson, Ray & Jo Thompson, Bill & Helen Toni, Bob & Maggie Trojanowski, Jerry & Carole Vogel, Bill & Edith Ward, Art & Karin Weatherwalks, Dave Weaver, Leon & Dottie Weston, Gene Wetzel, Helen Wicker, John Wible & Jeanette Brumfiel, John & Donna Wild, Bob & Lorene Wilson, Chuck & Monika Wilson, Jan Wilson, Roger & Sharon Wilson, Dave Wymard, Rip & Jeannie Yarnall, Lorrayne & Shawn Zobrak, **GUESTS:** Viktor & Elsbeth Andonov, Sean & Mimi Cotter

Nellis AFB Honor Guard: SrA Antonia Williams, Amn Mariano Padilla, Alc Cotton Orr, SrA Souzan Aziz

2nd VICE PRESIDENT – Richard Obidinski

John & Eva Maria Slutz were the first place winner of the Association Las Vegas lottery. John & Eva Maria walked away with \$400.00 cash. Congratulations!

The Memorial Service planned by Francis and JoAnn Fukumoto was touching and demonstrated appropriate recognition and respect for colleagues listed on the "Final Flyby" (Deceased). In performing the Memorial Service, Francis was assisted by Mike Assenmacher, Tom Bryson, Gary Cherpes, Tom Mikloiche, John Pace, Jim Patterson, Dean Reed and Brent Scott. At appropriate intervals during the service, an Assistant would step to the microphone and read a list of names of those being saluted. The audience was requested to stand if they recognized the name of a fallen comrade. As I stood to honor those whose names I knew, I noticed that many stood a lot indicating they had many former friends on the list. It was a heartwarming ceremony in recognition of those that could be present in spirit only. Our name will be on that "Final Flyby" list someday but until that day comes, I will be thankful for the time we have all spent together. Evie and I are looking forward to seeing a greater turnout in Biloxi,

3rd V. PRESIDENT - **Jim Riggin**

The Obidinski's, Fukumoto's and Traudl and I, want Las Vegas Reunion attendee's to know we enjoyed planning and presenting the entertainment for the Tuesday afternoon reception/social. Everybody, without exception, appeared to have a great time. It's a wonderful feeling to see 300 plus people, singing, dancing, smiling, and doing the Hula. The gathering was better than the wildest New Year celebration we have ever attended. We have received nothing but positive feedback so assume you, the membership, are looking for a repeat performance in Biloxi. A repeat performance will give all the folks that missed the fun in Las Vegas an opportunity to become a merry maker in Biloxi.

We have been asked, and have accepted the honor, to plan the social/reception entertainment in 2004. We know there is a lot of talent in this Association because we heard and saw many of you perform in Hof. When filling out the Biloxi Reunion Questionnaire (part of this news-letter) we urge you to volunteer your talent. We have a little more time to put the Biloxi entertainment program together but we need your inputs now. The "Oktoberfest Theme" went over well in Las Vegas and there is a possibility of having a German Band play for us in Biloxi. IF you plan to attend the Biloxi Reunion, send in your special song request for Tuesday, October 26 now. <jmriggin@yahoo.com> We'll be happy to accommodate you if we can.

MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN - **C.A.Russell**

We thank all of you that took the time and effort to submit copies of your old paperwork (orders), and encourage those of you who haven't, to do so. I talk to people all the time who know the whereabouts of fellow Hof vets, but have never provided the information to us so they can be included on the roster. You may feel the information you have about a former Hof Colleague is insignificant, but combined with other material we may have, could be combined to locate another Hofer. Also, when you communicate with any of your Hof friends, ask if they have sent in their membership fee. That is our absolute only source of revenue, which is used to cover administrative and communications costs. We're looking forward to meeting you all on the Gulf Shores of the Magnolia State and home of Jefferson Davis, Biloxi, Mississippi.

Mail Old Hof Orders to: C.A. Russell, 1206 Accord Rd, Dublin, GA 31021-0715.

Email: russca@bellsouth.net

SERGEANT OF ARMS - **Bob Alekson**

What a pleasant surprise we had from all of the participants of our Las Vegas Reunion. We thought that there would be a few problems with people failing to wear their nametags or forgetting their tickets. Guess what! Everyone was in compliance with the request to wear their nametags and support the reunion planners. We thank all of you for your cooperation. The word must have got out to the few former Hofer's that were in Las Vegas but were not registered for the reunion. Even they honored protocol and complied with the rules by not attempting to crash planned activities. Our Keynote Speaker, Captain Sean Cotter of the US Air Force Thunderbirds, was right on when he commented that

he was absolutely amazed at our closeness as a "family" after 40 plus years. It was a pleasure to help in assuring that our Las Vegas Reunion was a success. I personally hope to see many more former Hof Colleagues in Biloxi. I feel blessed with all the new friends that I have made but know there are many of you out there that I haven't had the pleasure of meeting. Come smell the roses and experience the joy of living.

Testimonial - **Jim Slothower**

It has been a long time since I left Hof in the summer of 1967. A lot has changed since then for all of us. Careers, marriages, children, and grandchildren are some of the highlights many of us have shared. We all have much to be thankful for. The long list of our comrades who have joined the final fly by list that was read from the stage in Las Vegas last month gives us all cause to ruminate on those special things in life we really value. One thing of particular value to me was the opportunity to meet with old friends I had not seen for over 35 years. For those of us who served in the 6915th on Baker Trick from 1963-1968 who attended the reunion in Las Vegas this year, it was a particularly grand time. The opportunity to chat, after so many years, with Tony and Lynn Cameron, a couple who contributed so much to my memorable experiences in Hof, and to share a couple of meals with Gene Frank, Pat DeCintio and Gordon Schultz and their lovely spouses was worth the price of admission alone. It was nice to see that friendships made so many years ago still endure. I am thankful for all of the work done by the organizers of the Las Vegas reunion which made the event so successful and I am hopeful that more old friendships will be resurrected when we meet again next year in Biloxi. Jim N. Slothower, Slothower & Petersen, P.C. Attorneys at Law
205 NW Franklin Ave. Bend, OR 97701 (541) 389-7001

TESTIMONIAL – **Will Patton**

Make plans now to attend the 2004 Hof Reunion in Biloxi! I went to my first reunion in Las Vegas in October 2003 to see old friends that I had not seen in 35 years. You may or may not recognize them at first, because some have no hair, some have hair of a different color, and some are bigger. But the voices sound the same; they still smile, and they laugh about the times we spent in Hof. They will tell stories you hadn't thought about in years. I saw and talked with guys and their wives from my time in Hof (November 1964 to February 1968 at the 6915th Scty Gp); Thomas Bryson, Ken and Gay Kielbania, Harvey Schmidt, Morris and Karen Petty, Chuck and June Parnell (fellow Okies), Jack Sinagra, Don Ridgeway, Ken Fielder, Joe Eberhardt, Charles Cromer, and more. I met Mike Becker's widow Gabriella, Tom Bryson's wife Denise and daughter Hanna. (I have been sending Hanna travel postcards for years and finally got to meet her.)

With over 300 people at the Reunion, you are bound to find someone that you know. You will meet a lot of new friends who shared life in Hof at different times and even at the same time but were in different units or schedules. Take advantage of this opportunity to renew old friendships and make new ones!

GLOSSARY OF HOFER GI SPEAK TERMS - **Jerry Mangas**

I have started to put together a Glossary of Terms for that day in the distant future when there is no longer anybody fluent in Hofer GI speak to translate. I have 4 single spaced pages down already, but I must admit it is a bit biased, mostly ops centered, simply because there is where I did my time.

I need some input from the 606 guys and the base Day-ladies. So far this whole thing is pretty much OPS centered and 203 based and there have gotta be terms that were particular to the base people or Doebrä that I haven't heard or am not familiar with.

Nothing classified (or once was) and nothing scatological unless it is very funny. Funny makes it OK. Your grandkids may wanna read this someday to their grandkids ... "Here's what Great Great Grampie did during the 50 year War, Jimmy!". "He spoke this here funny language then but Gramma says after he came home he was OK until he went to that damn Reunion!. It was downhill from there!"

If you would send along just the terms, and explanations if they are really obtuse (or funny), I will fit them into this thing for posterity and beyond. It up to ten pages or so and I will send it out for more additions to a wider group of people. < jmangas@fast.net >

SECRETARY - **Chuck Wilson**

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

October 6, 2003

M I N U T E S

General Membership Meeting was called to order at 1700 hours by President Tom Nickerson who led the membership in the Pledge Allegiance.

Secretary Chuck Wilson read the September 17, 2002 minutes. Tony Donofrio made a motion that the minutes be accepted as read. Nate Sparks seconded the motion. Membership Approved.

Nate Sparks gave the Treasures Report and stated the Association books were available and open for inspection by any member with a desire to review them. Dan Scanny made the motion that the treasures report be accepted as read. Bob Alekson seconded. Membership Approved

OLD BUSINESS:

Tom Nickerson presented a suggestion to change the format for the "Master Hof Roster." The suggested change had been submitted by a member in good standing but not present due to medical problems. After a short discussion, the issue was put to a vote. The membership voted to continue using the present Master Hof Roster format.

Tom Nickerson introduced a proposed change to the Association Constitution and By- Laws that had been published in the July, 2003, Hof Connection Newsletter. The change would grant any widow or widower, who's spouse name appears on the "Final Flyby List", membership in the Association with all the privileges of a regular member except the right to pay dues or to hold office. After a discussion period, A motion was made by Bob Alekson to accept the change as read. Seconded by Jim Riggin. Membership=Yea Nea=0

The 2004 Reunion Site selection ballots were presented by Chuck Wilson. Branson, MO received the greatest number of votes (53) but Jim Beard, the Branson representative said it would be impossible for him to organize the 2004 Reunion and suggested the membership vote on Biloxi (48) or San Antonio (47). Orlando, FL had received to few votes (27) to even be considered. After a presentation for Biloxi by Toot Fields and presentation on behalf of San Antonio (Bennie Hopper-San Antonio Rep was recovering from C Surgery) by Chuck Wilson, a vote was taken. San Antonio was selected by 4 votes.

NEW BUSINESS;

Chuck Wilson made a motion that a \$1000.00 donation be made to the Air Force Enlisted Village, Schalamar, FL. Motion was seconded by Bruce Orr. The Motioned Carried.

Tom Nickerson reviewed the Constitution and By-laws with the membership and then opened the floor for nomination for 3rd Vice President. Dick Obidinski nominated Jim Riggin, Seconded by Don Chesney. Dick Obidinski made a motion that nominations be closed, seconded by Tony Donofrio. Yea= Nea=0

Jim Patterson nominated Chuck Wilson for Secretary, seconded by Dan Scanny. Bruce Orr made a motion that nominations be closed, seconded by E. T. Row. Membership= Yea= Nea=0

Tom Bryson nominated Nathan Sparks for Treasurer, seconded by Don Chesney. Dan Scanny made a motion that nominations be closed, seconded by Tony Donofrio. Membership=Yea Nea=0

Chuck Wilson nominated CA Russell for Membership Chairman, seconded by Dick Obidinski. Jim Riggin made a motion that nominstions be closed, seconded by Jerry Mangas. Membership = Yea Nea=0

Tom Nickerson introduced Incoming President Jim Patterson. Jim Patterson gave his acceptance speech and entertained a motion to close the meeting.

Bob Alekson made a motion that the 2003 General Membership Meeting be closed, quickly seconded by Tony Donofrio and approved by the membership.

HOF KASERNE - Jerry & Pat Mangas

Picture is from a book re: Hüttner that I am just starting to translate ... These are the new barracks in 1936. There were initially four "Reserve" or "replenishment/replacement" companies here (the 15, 16, 17 and 18'th, the last as a Machine Gun Company) stationed at the Kaserne when it was first built in 1935, (as part of?) the Replacement Battalion, II./of the 42'nd Infantry Regiment (formerly IR Bayreuth). These were older men from Oberfranken, past draft age but who were still able to serve and were put thru a 8 week (later a quarter year) training course. the II signifies "Adjutant". The Adjutant's section was generally in the personnel group of a (*Regiment*) or *Division* HQ. ,*The "II" took care of all matters dealing with replacements, personnel More to follow.matters of officers such as promotions, decorations, punishments, etc, as well as the rosters, war rolls, and lists of losses for a *Regiment or Division.*" (It was) complete with Headquarters. The book also states that Stadt Hof had never before 1936 been considered for a Garrison "because no soldier could tolerate the rough climate (read ... rotten weather!) of a 'Bavarian Siberia' ", so there was in fact some basis for our term of endearment for Hof as "Little Siberia"!

Got the book (by Rosenwald, "Biography of a Franken-Bavarian Soldier") from the Library of Congress, and was not allowed to take it out of the library to translate it. In fact I waited over a month for it. Not sure why I couldn't take it home but that was stamped on the cover and the jacket liner was imprinted all over with Library of Congress, and they were listed as the publisher.



The Hof Reunion Association
(A non-profit organization)
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Hof Reunion Association Officers and Staff

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Tom Nickerson

Executive Board:

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2ndV.P.	Dick Obidinski
3rdV.P.	Jim Riffin
Treasurer	Nathan Sparks
Secretary	Chuck Wilson
Membership Chairman	C A Russell

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Sergeant at Arms	Bob Alekson
	Tony Donofrio

the HOF CONNECTION newsletter

July 2004

2004 REUNION IN BILOXI, MS 25 - 29 OCTOBER

EDITOR - Phil Murray

This is going to be ONE superb reunion attended by some of the greatest people in the world - you'll want to be one of them. Right now we have confirmed registrations for over 250 and the number is climbing. You'll run into old friends you haven't seen in years and you'll run into friends you didn't know you have. Don't just mark it down - make reservations - the earlier - the better. This gives us a more realistic headcount, allowing us to make better plans, leveraging the "large" group for getting special deals and/or better access. It really helps! This is essentially the last call as reservations are due by August 30th. And, a reminder, if you wait too long you'll be awarded the opportunity to pay the "Late Surcharge," from August 30th to September 10th the fee is \$10.00 and after that it will increase to \$20.00, bringing the total to \$101.00. We don't want any member to get stuck with this surcharge.

Two Association members are generously donating door prizes. Elizabeth Jung, wife of Robert, stationed in Hof in the '64 - '68 timeframe, is a novelist that currently has four novels out and a fifth one on the way. She has offered two of her adventure/intrigue novels, personally autographed, as door prizes for two lucky attendees. In fact we could possibly coerce her into autographing additional copies of her books that any member may have with them. Lonnie Henderson, an award winning Comanche artist of Anadarko, OK, will be donating two lathe-turned, wooden bowls. One bowl is for the member that travels the greatest distance to attend and the second for the (pardon the expression) oldest member attending. Each bowl will have an engraved brass plate commemorating the accomplishment. And if "Chief" turns wood as well as he played Fussball they're gonna be real treasures. There will be additional door prizes, they won't be personalized like these, but they will be nice.

Another highlight will be our guest speaker at the Banquet Dinner, James Bennicker and his wife Jan. Currently James is the President and CEO of the Air Force Enlisted Village and in a previous life was CMSgt of the Air Force. He has a great wealth of history and good insights into current and future events affecting our Veterans and current members of the Armed Forces. Visit their website: <www.afenlistedwidows.org>.

The Imperial Palace Hotel/Casino is our host, they are located on the shore at 850 Bayview Avenue, Biloxi, and they have agreed to hold a block of rooms until September 12th. The rates are \$49.00 per night, Sunday through Thursday (\$69.00 Friday and Saturday), Jacuzzi King rooms are \$79.00 (\$99.00 Friday and Saturday) and King Jacuzzi Suites are \$129.00 (\$149.00 Friday and Saturday). For reservations, dial **888-946-2847**, select "Reservations Department" ask for "Reservations - Agent Red", identify yourself as being with "Hof Reunion 2004" to get the group rates and a complimentary buffet breakfast for each night's stay except Thursday. A credit card will be required to secure your reservation. In the event your Registration form got lost, you can download another form from our website, and complete Hotel information (the fine print) is available in the back pages of the newsletter.

The first major action you have to take is to find the Hof Reunion Hospitality Suite on the morning of October 25th - signs will be posted directing you there, but if you must ask at the desk, the secret codeword is "Hof Reunion 2004." We open the doors at 10:00 AM; you'll have to register and receive your Reunion Package that includes Souvenir Nametags, Tickets, Tee-shirts (if ordered), free show listings, special instructions - all the important items required to make this a successful mission. The Hospitality Suite will be the Operations Center for all activities. If you get lost, off schedule, confused or just lonely, return immediately to the Hospitality Suite you will find a cure for the problem. The Squadron Bulletin Board will be there with all the Duty Rosters and Schedules, there will be Coffee, Donuts and Assorted Beverages dispensed by Dick Obidinski, Tom Nickerson, Jo Murray and other, as of yet, unnamed volunteers. You will also want to bring your old photo albums to back up all the stories we have to tell - this is hard work and a picture is worth a thousand words.

EXECUTIVE ADVISORY BOARD - Tom Bryson

“To renew old friendships, to perpetuate the memory of our service in the region, to promote fellowship and friendship among all of us interested in the Hof Association and to educate dependents and relatives as to the importance of our time in Hof/Saale during the Cold War.” These are the tenets of our existence and reasons for striving each year to plan and execute a reunion experience fulfilling those principles.

Anyone who has attended either of the last two events, in Hof then Las Vegas, can attest to the fact that these gatherings not only fulfilled the goals of the Hof Association, but went much further in providing several days of good food, music, nostalgia, field trips, hospitality and just plain fun. Imagine the pride and satisfaction on the part of each of the Association’s officers in being an active participant in such an outstanding “job well done.”

Officers serve from reunion to reunion – including the Secretary. To provide Association stability, the President moves to the Executive Advisory Board and the 1st Vice President moves to the office of President unless he is unable to serve, then the 2nd Vice President will assume the office. The 3rd Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Membership Chairman and any vacant positions are up for nomination and election each reunion.

These positions need to be filled by competent, responsible and intelligent individuals with the ability to get their arms around a difficult concept and mold it into a cohesive, living organism – an improved Association and the next Reunion. If you are that kind of individual, in the words of Uncle Sam: “WE WANT YOU”

Do your part in improving and perpetuating the Hof Association and all it stands for. Seek office and serve well if elected. If you are willing to allow your name to be placed into nomination for any of the above positions, please send me an email <thebear1968@yahoo.com>. Be assured that previous Officers will be available for direction and advice if necessary.

EXECUTIVE ADVISORY BOARD – Tom Nickerson

Looking forward to our reunion in Biloxi? Monika and I certainly are. Biloxi has become a gorgeous resort area – you get History, you get Casinos, a chance to walk on the 26 mile long man made white beach, meet great people, and enjoy great weather in October. Join in, send your reservations to Chuck, tell him you just have to be part of this. If history is an indicator, you just can’t go wrong because a great time has been had by all at our past reunions, whether here or there or even Germany. We get to rehash old times, we get to win the cold war again, we can talk about the 50 DM bottles of “Yac” at Jakes, the Schwimmbad, Bratwurst, all the important things. For those that don’t want to just “hang out” at the pool or the Hospitality Suite, there will be some very good tours arranged covering a variety of events and sites that will make you glad you did it – Keesler AFB might even be available for viewing. How can you resist?

Amazing how the years pass but the memories remain. Old friendships are rekindled and new ones made every year. If you are undecided, I strongly encourage you to think hard on meeting old friends in Biloxi. You will go home happier for attending.

NOTE

If you have an Internet Provider and are not receiving the Association weekly email Update, we probably don’t have your current email address. Please contact <HofReunion@aol.com> to see what the problem may be. Please provide your name and correct email address. Your attention to this matter will assure that you receive all the weekly email updates.

SEEKING FORMER SECURITY POLICE

Bobby Sturdevant <stuclan@earthlink.net> and Tom Mikloiche <Mikloit@pweh.com> are requesting that all former Air Policeman (Security Police) and MP’s that were assigned to Hof, between 1960 and 1972, contact them as soon as possible. They would truly like to hear from anybody that knew them at Hof. Call Bobby Sturdevant at (210) 675-0011 and Tom Mikloiche can be reached at (806) 643-9004.

PRESIDENT – Jim Patterson

Even though we are excited about our upcoming reunion, let’s not overlook another important function – payment of our annual dues. This isn’t the most exciting topic but it’s the one that keeps the organizational wheels turning. We operate on a fiscal calendar that runs from October 1st to September 30th of the following year.

and for the sake of our financial health it's important that we pay our dues in a timely manner. If everyone pays-up during July, August and September, it's "tidy" and "efficient," it's easy to pay the bills and organize the overall finances. An example of organizational efficiency: The Secretary is charged with sending out the Master Hof Roster to all members in good standing. The rosters are "bulk-reproduced" and "bulk-mailed" at a substantial savings. If the dues are received after the October 10th printing and bulk mailing, you will be required to wait until the 2nd bulk printing on January 12th. This is one of the ways we have to personally control operational costs and it is only a matter of timing, so please grab the attached renewal form, fill it out and send it in with your dues to the address at the top of the form.

We ask that Widows return the membership renewal form annually for Association records. The form lets us know that you are still interested in the Association and serves as a reminder to mail you a new copy of the Master Hof Roster. Failure to return the form could result in your name being dropped from rolls.

The last item concerning annual dues: please pay for one year at a time – advance payment creates a bookkeeping annoyance. However, if you feel like just "helping out" – add a \$5.00 donation. OK, enough of the commercial, lets get back to the party!

VICE PRESIDENT – Bruce Orr

Welcome to the "Playground of the South"

This destination in the classic "Deep South" is a great selection for our 2004 Annual Reunion. You will certainly enjoy this week in Biloxi, even if it is coming a year earlier than we originally planned, as San Antonio proved a little too rich for our blood.

The Gulf Coast of Mississippi is popularly referred to as the "Playground of the South"; a temperate year-round climate with 26 miles of white sandy beaches, there is no question about how the area earned its nickname. Recreational opportunities and adventures abound, ranging from para sailing to golfing, deep-sea fishing, sailing and dinner cruises. Other activities include historic exploration, gourmet dining, art and antique hunting, and museum tours. Gaming (the polite term for Gambling) was legalized in Mississippi in 1990, allowing casinos to pop up all over the coast.

We are fortunate to have found a great site location in the magnificent Imperial Palace Hotel/Casino located directly on the Gulf in Biloxi. The Casino portion of the hotel is open 24-hours a day and features 70,000 square feet of quality gaming: more than 50 game tables and 1,600 slots. They also feature fine restaurants and other entertainment. Both Biloxi and nearby Gulfport have additional casinos.

This gulf coast area offers many other attractions and nearby day-trip possibilities. The city of New Orleans will be a must day-trip for some. Keesler AFB where many of us spent some time, many years ago, continues as the premier electronics and communications training center for the USAF and could also be worth a memorial trip. The Bus Tour schedule, cost, and sign-up form is on the back page of this newsletter.

Your Convention Site Selection Committee continues to explore possible venues for 2005 and beyond. For next year we are looking at the first or second week in October. So far the three leading contenders are: Atlantic City, NJ;

Branson, MO; and Nashville, TN. The 2005 Reunion Location Ballot is immediately below the FY5 Membership Renewal Form. The Association Board is attempting to hit all geographic areas so that as many ex-Hofers as possible can attend these reunions. We always try to hold expenses down, while selecting attractive locales and meeting facilities.

Robert Hoerath has requested that "Hof/Saale" be considered for the 2006 Association Reunion. We will discuss and vote on this issue at the Biloxi General Membership meeting October 25th.

Looking forward to seeing "Y'all" in Biloxi!!!!

2nd VICE PRESIDENT – Richard Obidinski

There was a time when our young men and boys were selected to do their part in the military. They were selected from cities large and small, rural America and the farms and ranches scattered around the Mid-west. After extensive training these young men were placed in strategic locations around the world, one such location was a

little hamlet in far eastern section of West Germany called Hof. Unknown by most, including a few Germans, and off the beaten path.

In Hof we were assigned tasks as early alert (scope dopes) and communications interceptors. If you think about it, we were the first contact with hostile forces in this sector. These tasks were important, even if we felt we were just wasting time, especially on slow mid-shifts, and even if the “sparks” of excitement were rare. But, in the end, most of us came away with a feeling that we had done something worthwhile for our country.

Being so close to the Grenz, travel was somewhat restricted. The most reasonable direction was west or toward the Bayreuth area, maybe even as far as Nuernberg, but because everything was so far away, we stayed mostly around home base. Even though restricted, maybe even because of it, we formed a bond with our comrades, got to meet and understand more of the local people than those stationed in the big towns with bright lights. We “hung” together, shared successes and failures and became a nice, tight, group of “friends”.

Good choices were made there and it reflects years later when this hardy group meets for the fifth time (to my knowledge), enmasse, to catch up on the latest among the old “friends” and establish new friendships with those we didn’t get to meet the first time around. This year we’re gonna be in Biloxi, Mississippi where a few remember going to Tech School a millennium ago, this is going to be a sentimental journey for many – the term “Kessler AFB” will bring a tear to the eye of many of our group, and how can you blame them? I wish for all to hook-up with the old comrades and to make new “friends” in Biloxi, to rediscover the common bond we have, how important our tour of duty was and to tighten the spirit of “the family.”

3rd V. PRESIDENT - Jim Riggins

Traudl and I have been busy planning the Biloxi Social-Reception entertainment. In Las Vegas we followed the German theme but plan a more mingled description in Biloxi. Brian Stoneback has promised support with his Accordion and Comical Skills, Ralph Glover will sing a song or two and our daughter will also join the show in Biloxi. If any of you would like to offer your talent as part of the Tuesday afternoon program, send an email or give us a phone call some time after August 15. We’ll be in Hof, enjoying Bier and Bratwust the remainder of July and beginning of August. Our email address is: [<jimriggin@yahoo.com>](mailto:jimriggin@yahoo.com) and our telephone number is 719-260-9481.

Remember, this Association is one big family so please don’t wander around talking to yourself and acting shy - reach out to others by introducing yourself and getting involved. - Smiles and Hugs can be contagious.

TREASURER - Nathan Sparks

Our Association is recognized as a nonprofit, tax exempt, charitable organization under Internal Revenue Code, Section 501 (c) (19). Under the IRS Non Profit rules each year we should make a contribution to a charitable cause such as the Golf Tournament for Legally Blind Veterans, Iowa City, Iowa, the Enlisted Widows Foundation, Shalimar, Florida or other IRS recognized charitable institutions. This matter must, and will be voted on by the membership in Biloxi, Mississippi.

The Reunion in Las Vegas was considered a very joyful and successful reunion by all that attended. The cost in dollars and cents are as follows: Social, Banquet and Band in the Trianon Ballroom in Stardust Resort & Casino \$23,659.50, Bus Tour to Hoover Dam and Valley of the Fire \$3,554.45, Souvenir “T” shirts \$1,219.82, Gifts, Gratuities, and Miscellaneous expenses \$290.49, and Donation to the Enlisted Widows Village \$1000.00. The total cost of the Las Vegas reunion was \$29,724.26. We are anticipating a larger attendance at the Biloxi Reunion. We have budgeted for the Social, Banquet and Band \$32,500.00, Bus Tours in and around Biloxi \$4,500.00, Souvenir “T” shirts \$1,500.00, gifts, gratuities and miscellaneous expenses \$500.00, charitable contribution \$1,500.00. An estimated cost of \$40,500.00

Our goal is to provide all members the best service for their money. Each new member and the renewing members receive an updated copy of the Master Hof Roster. The Association operates on a Fiscal Year that runs from October 1 through September 30 of each calendar year. We urge you to utilize the membership renewal form provided with this Newsletter to renew your membership in late July thru early September. We can then bulk reproduce and mail the Master Hof Roster on October 12, at a reduced cost to the Association.

The Association's finances are in excellent condition with more than \$5,000.00, as of May 31, 2004, in our Association bank account, however we are confronted with some heavy expenses in the near future. The publication and mailing of the July 2004 Hof Connection Newsletter and deposits for the upcoming reunion in Biloxi. The Association books will be available in Biloxi for Fiscal year 2003 and 2004 open for inspection by any member with a desire to review them.

SECRETARY - Chuck Wilson

"Thank You" to all the magnificent members of this wonderful Association that have put forth "that little extra effort" by reaching out to former Hof Colleagues and asking them to participate in the Biloxi get together. That is what this Association is all about; "Reaching out to others, renewing old acquaintances, and making many new friendships with folks that have shared the common experience of "serving at Hof." We also want to thank all the current Association Officers for their unselfish commitment to assuring that the Association functions smoothly. We encourage recently retired members of the Association to seek office by allowing your name to be placed into nomination. You can improve and make this Association ever stronger. Internet service is the only prerequisite. Please Let Tom Bryson know that you will accept nomination for office and will serve to the best of your ability if elected by the membership.

As the majority of you know, we will be calling on you to serve a couple of hours in the Hospitality Suite or help with the registration. A duty roster will be posted in the hospitality suite. The major duty of both jobs is to smile and chat with reunion participants looking for a friend.

MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN - C.A. Russell

I appreciate the contribution of "old orders" that many of you have made. As the Membership Chairman, I get to do the searches, but I'd like to say we could all be "Searchers."

Here are some of the search engines that I use, they are pretty reliable and they are FREE.

<http://www.ussearch.com> Use this to narrow down age group and region.

<http://www.switchboard.com> Use this for general phone and address info.

<http://person.langenberg.com> Another engine for a variety of info, foreign countries, obituaries, professional, email, zip codes, etc.

I use others occasionally, but these are usually all that are necessary to locate someone with a known middle initial, approximate age, and Serial Number (the first two numerals indicate what region of the U.S. the veteran enlisted in, and that info is provided on the back page of the roster). Close friends would know what city their buddy came from, and I have found that over 90% return to the same state or region. The rest move to Florida or get discharged in Texas and stay there. So, PLEASE help us out the best you can, give what info you have to the new find, and notify us by phone or e-mail so we can finish the job. We still have work to do!!!! <russca@bellsouth.net>, (478) 296 9118

Send old Hof Orders to: C. A. Russell, 1206 Achord Road, Dublin, GA 31021-0715

WEBMASTER - Barry Springsteen

ASSOCIATION WEB SITE STATUS

The migration of the association web site <www.hofreunion.com> to a new hosting service is complete and the service has proven to be very reliable and stable. Response to the new look of the site has been very favorable.

In addition to providing a new look for our site there are also several new features and programming tools now available. The first new feature that has been incorporated into the web site is a bulletin board. This feature will allow for a series of ongoing dialogs and the sharing of all forms of information between association members.

The photo album has proven to be a major project but Jerry Mangas has stepped forward, accepted the challenge and is making great progress. There are several issues with the albums that are being addressed. One concern with the album is returning to the web site after viewing a series of pictures. At this moment, it is not possible to place a permanent navigation button within the album. There are two temporary solutions available. The first is to enter www.hofreunion.com/links.html in the address field of your browser and click on GO. A second solution would be to add the PHOTOS AND LINK PAGE of the web site to your favorites list and transfer back in that manner.

Comments about the current web site, suggestions for improvements or a description of a new feature can be E-Mailed to [<hofreunion@att.net>](mailto:hofreunion@att.net).

CHAPLAIN - Francis Fukumoto

A Prayer for the Nations

Eternal God, the creator of all things and called it good. We are thankful for the sign of your peace in our lives. For the lifting up of human dignity and community for every expression of love, justice, reconciliation; for every act of self-giving on the behalf of others.

We commit ourselves individually and as a community to the way of truth, to seek the abundant life for humanity, to struggle for peace with justice and freedom, to risk ourselves in faith, hope and love,

We pray for the blessing of America the Beautiful, a country that stands united, a country that embraces all nations for the cause of freedom, a country that is bound by your divine image for your continued blessings, we pray.

We pray for our comrades in harms way, brave men and women loyal to the ultimate sacrifice for the freedom, that we live and enjoy each day, and to the future generation, for the best is yet to come, we pray

We pray in the name of God the creator, God the sustainer, God the redeemer.

AMEN

SERGEANT OF ARMS - Bob Alekson

Wow ... can you believe it. In just a few months we will be enjoying another great Hof reunion, this time in Biloxi. Last year in Las Vegas you all were extremely cooperative in wearing your name tags in the Hospitality Suite and at all the Association functions. This was not only helpful to us monitoring the functions, but also helpful to the members trying to identify all of their long lost buddies. We are asking that the same cooperation be offered in Biloxi. We will be getting acquainted with more new members of our family that will be joining us for the first time. I think that perhaps we could also try and find one of your Hof pics of many years ago and wear it next to our nametag. Sounds scary, doesn't it? (Chuckle) I think that it would add an extra smile when we bump into a "stranger" at our event.

SERGEANT OF ARMS - Tony Donofrio

You all remember seeing notices of "Group Dinners" in the weekly updates. The Groups Dinners will be formed by organization and year of service at Hof; the purpose is to create a small reunion within the reunion by assuring that folks who served and worked directly together have an opportunity to find each other without too much hassle. The Group Dinners are "dutch" and we hope that all reunion participants will take advantage of these mini gatherings, using them as an opportunity to renew old acquaintance with former colleagues. Be prepared to

introduce yourself, your spouse, or guest, and give a 2-3 minute dissertation about yourself and your experiences since the Hof years.

Group Leaders names and signup forms will be posted in the Hospitality Suite on October 25th, look for them and sign-up.

HISTORIAN – Gary Dempsey

As your Historian, I am interested in gathering as many of your memories of the days at Hof as you all can give me. It's important, as we have just seen with the - yes, 60th-anniversary of D-Day, that we leave something tangible behind while we still can. If I can get enough material, I'd like to put together an official, or semi-official, memorial book of the 6915th and the other units that were stationed at Hof or the old Kingsley Kaserne in the "60s-'80s.

Please use the new Association Bulletin Board to post your thoughts. I'll be checking it frequently, and if I need more info, I'll e-mail you directly, if you want. I can also be reached via my own website <gary@thedempseyarchives.com>.

PHOTOSITE HISTORY - Jerry Mangas

While I've got your attention, here are some of our needs for the web site picture pages ...

1. Pictures of individuals or small groups, two to three people that can be identified, with or without background activity is fine and with names where possible. Pictures of larger groups would have to be cropped to be visible on the web page (This can be done, no problem). The Medical and Food Service Dets have been well shown for the 60's but where is everybody else? We know that everyone bought a great camera and a lot of film – where are the pics?
2. Pictures of Official Ceremonies, such as the change of command ceremony in 1964 are also welcomed. But we need to ID what is happening, i.e., What? Who? When? and Where?
3. Pictures of historical interest. Old Hof pics; prior to, during and after WW II. Descriptions and credits where possible.
4. We also have insignia missing from the Wappenschild page, particularly the Bundeswehr and Luftwaffe side of things, not to mention the 50's Army and ASA side. There was also the Russian Liaison unit there from 1945 – does anyone have any info on them, name and insignia?
5. And, in general, any pics from the 40's, 50's and 70's that fit the above descriptions. The 50's and the 70's are totally lacking.

One of the probable major problems is at that time and place in history, we all did a lot of 35mm slide work. Those slides today are deteriorating and difficult to scan. When you have something really important, a local photo lab can digitize your pics for posterity; I found several of my own that turned out to be quite frame-able and now deck the walls. But the cost makes you shy away from doing “bulk” projects. So, if anyone knows of a good source for “bulk” scanning old slides, or a similar solution, please speak up as there are many of us that would be glad to hear about it and it would have a direct effect on our website.

PUBLICITY – Tony and Lynn Cameron

We would like to start a data bank of “local newspapers” ... A Public Information sheet will be in your reunion package. Be prepared to give the name of your local newspaper(s), email address, and US Postal Address. If you don't have the information with you, take the form home to complete and then return it to the Hof Reunion Association.

LAS VEGAS TESTIMONIAL – Tom Mikloiche

Three days after returning from our vacation in Hof, my wife, Ingrid, and I, frantically un-packed and repacked. Braving jet lag, we headed off to the Las Vegas reunion wondering if we shouldn't have just stayed home and rested. At least we didn't have to go through customs again.

We arrived in Las Vegas on Saturday, got situated in the Stardust, relaxed a little, then the adrenalin took over and we wandered through the Casino looking for familiar faces from long ago.

Monday we registered at the Hospitality Suite and it didn't take long before we found a few familiar faces. Inga spotted Greg Krcma and his wife, Sandy, and while we were talking, in walks Lt. Kielbania and his wife Gay. As we are getting into the "war story" mode, Delbert Henry arrives. Not only were the guys getting into the "war story" mode, the ladies were hitting it off like sisters and telling the other side of the "war stories". We talked and talked and the group grew and grew. We finally met Milton Gibbs and his wife Virginia for the first time – the irony being Milton was stationed in Hof in '57, long before I was there, but we live only about a mile from each other.

I could go on and on and on ... it would fill a book ... just let it be said, we had the time of our lives – enjoyed every second and we're looking forward to seeing everybody again in Biloxi. If there is anyone reading this that is worried they WON'T have a great time, you can forget about it right now. I can promise that you'll have tears in your eyes upon meeting the first person that you knew and it will get better from there! Ingrid and I hope to see you there, stop and say hello when you see us!!!

ADDITIONAL ITEMS OF INTEREST

Don Ridgeway would like to hear from any golfers who would like to play a round (or two) in Biloxi. Contact Don direct at <martind@direcway.com> or write Don Ridgeway, 8090 Gulf Blvd, Navarre Beach, FL 32566, Tel 850-939-1217

Elizabeth J. Jung, (Widow of Robert, stationed with the 6915th, 1964-68) draws on her real life experiences to write thought provoking spy novels. Elizabeth will attend our Biloxi Reunion and has offered a couple of her books as door prizes. Elizabeth has written four intrigue novels; Game Between Spies, Budapest Connection, Project Eve, and Assignment: Reno, Nevada. She is expecting her fifth novel, Iowa's Double Agent, to be released shortly before our get-together in Biloxi. Her books are available through any major bookstore. For an autographed copy, go to <www.elizabethjung.com>. You can also go to <www.hofreunion.com>, click on the Photos & Links Button and scroll down to her website.

Lonnie Henderson, (member of the 6915th, 1961-1964) an Award Winning Comanche Artist and Owner of Henderson Wood, Anadarko, OK. He will provide two lathe-turned bowls as awards at our Biloxi Reunion. Each bowl will have an engraved brass nameplate. One bowl will be awarded to the reunion participant that must travel the farthest distance to attend the Biloxi Reunion and the other will be awarded to the most senior(oldest) participant.

.Lonnie writes:

"From Anadarko, Ok, the Cultural Center of the World and possibly the entire Universe."

If you haven't registered for the Biloxi Reunion because the registration form has "run away" and it's hiding, you can download the form from the Association website <www.hofreunion.com>. Login and click the "2004 Reunion" button and scroll to the bottom of the page – it's right there, waiting for you. And if you don't have computer access, give Chuck Wilson a call at 916-366-1811 and he'll get the registration form in the mail or FAX it to you.

**The Hof Reunion Association
P.O. Box 276883
Sacramento, CA 95827-6883
Telephone: (916) 366-1811**

Hof Reunion Association Officers and Staff:

Executive Board Advisors: Tom Bryson
Tom Nickerson

German Affairs Repr.: Robert Hoerath

Executive Board:
President Jim Patterson
1st V.P. Bruce Orr
2nd V.P. Dick Obidinski
3rd V.P. Jim Riggan
Treasurer Nathan Sparks
Secretary Chuck Wilson
Membership Chairman C A Russell

Staff:
Chaplain Francis Fukumoto
Web Master Barry Springsteen
Web Photo Master Jerry Mangas
Historian Gary Dempsey
Hof Connection Editor Phil Murray
Sergeant at Arms Bob Alekson
Tony Donofrio

"Life may not be the party we hoped for... but while we are here we might as well dance."

BILOXI REUNION T-SHIRT

T-Shirts are Fruit of The Loom, 100% Preshrunk Cotton..

White with 5 Color Front & 2 Color Back

SIZE: S, M, L, = \$9.00 Each

SIZE: XL, XXL, XXXL = 10.00 Each

T-Shirt order must be received by September 15. Delivery at Imperial Palace during Registration

FRONT OF T-SHIRT



October 2004

Biloxi, MS

Bavaria

BACK OF T-SHIRT

Hof

Way up in

Germany

T-SHIRT ORDER FORM ON NEXT PAGE

**Hof Reunion Association
P.O. Box 276883
Sacramento, CA 95827-6883**

BILOXI REUNION T-SHIRT ORDER FORM.

SIZE: S, M, L, XL = \$9.00 Each

SIZE: XXL, XXXL = 10.00 Each

The Association must receive your order and payment by September 15th, 2004

Name	SIZE S,M,L \$9.00	SIZE XL,XXL,XXXL \$10.00	Number Ordered	Sub Total	Total

-.-.-.-.-.CUT HERE-.-.-.-.-

-.-.-. Biloxi Reunion Tour Registration & Payment Form

Name of Participant (s)	
1. _____	2. _____
3. _____	4. _____

TOUR DESCRIPTION	Limited to Tickets Available 106	Number of Tickets Requested	Cost Per Ticket	TOTAL
Tuesday, October 26 - 0800 5 Hr (2 Buses) Biloxi Antebelum & Historical Tour: 300 years of history of Gulf Coast, antebellum homes, museums, Keesler AFB, Beauvoir, Jeff Davis home & library, Tallis-Toledano Manor, Maritime & SeafoodMuseum, & Casino Row. (Entrance fee's Included in ticket price.)	First come First Serve		\$25.00	
Wednesday, Oct 27 – 0800 11Hr (2 Buses) NEW ORLEANS – FRENCH QUARTER A scenic drive along the Longest Man Made Beach in the world to New Orleans for a 2 Hr GuidedTour of City. After the City Tour we will enjoy about 2 hours in the famous French Quarter where we can enjoy shopping and lunch on our own. (Failure to return to the Bus Pick Up point <u>on time</u> will result in paying your own taxi fair to return to the Imperial Palace.)	106 Tickets Available First Come First Serve		\$28.00 (Does NOT Include Lunch)	
TOTAL				

Hof Reunion Association

P.O. Box 276883
Sacramento, CA 95827-6883

All association work is accomplished by volunteers. No salary or wages are paid to any member.

The Hof Reunion Association operates on a fiscal year that runs from 1 October to 31 September of the following year.

The Hof Connection Newsletter is mailed to members in good standing 2 times each year (January and July).

There is a provision in the Association Constitution and By-laws that allow the Executive Board to grant a FREE membership in situations where the \$15 membership dues will create a financial hardship. Free membership must be requested.

Free membership is provided to widows (widowers) of previous members in good standing and they are entitled to all the privileges of membership except the paying of dues and holding office. We ask that Widows complete and return the Membership Renewal form for the purpose of maintaining records and to assure a new Master Hof Roster is mailed to you. Failure to return the form could result in your name being removed from the roster.

If your spouse is from Hof/Saale or Oberfranken, please include maiden name. This information will assist the ladies from Kreis Hof in their quest to locate former friends.

PLEASE FILL OUT AND RETURN THE FOLLOWING FORM & RETURN TO THE ABOVE ADDRESS

----- cut along line -----

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FY-05

Last Name: _____ First: _____

Spouse: _____ Spouse Maiden Name: _____

Email Address: _____ AFSN: _____
(You may use the email address of a relative or friend)

Street Address: _____ Tel. No.: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____ -
(Nine Digit Zip Code Please)

Years stationed at Hof: 19 ____ to 19 ____ Organization: _____

PLEASE CHECK ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:

____ Enclosed is a check for \$15.00 made out to: Hof Reunion Association. I understand the Association operates on a FY which is from October 1 thru September 30 of the following year.

____ I am a widow (widower) of a previous member in good standing and want to continue my membership in the Association.

____ I am no longer interested in the Hof Reunion Association. Please remove my name from the email and US Postal listing.

----- cut along line -----

2005 REUNION LOCATION BALLOT

Name: _____

____ Branson, MO

____ Atlantic City, NJ

____ Nashville, TN

Please return to Hof Reunion Association before September 15, 2004 (With FY5 Member Renewal Form)

HOF REUNION ASSOCIATION

P.O. Box 276883

Sacramento, CA 95827-6883

NONPROFIT

U.S. POSTAGE

PAID

A NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION

Address Correction Requested

TO:

TIME DATED

MATERIAL

Deliver by 7 - 28 - 2004