



**344TH BOMB GROUP ASSOCIATION**  
**5747 DARNELL STREET • HOUSTON, TX 77096**

LAMBERT AUSTIN 713-774-3030  
 SECRETARY-TREASURER-REUNION SITE SELECTION



# MILK RUN

**OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER/344TH BOMB GROUP ASSOCIATION**

Volume XVI, No. 4, 5747 Darnell St., Houston, TX 77096. May thru July 2004

It is Thursday, 22 July and I have to get going on a Milk Run so you members can receive it in time to register for upcoming reunion. Not anything has changed we are still meeting in Orlando Florida at the Florida Mall Hotel. Dates are Monday Sept. 27 thru Friday Oct. 1. To register at hotel call 1-800-44-2326. Be sure to tell them you are with the 344<sup>th</sup> Bomb Group Assoc. If you have a problem call Mike Ikemeir @ 407-816-5076 he will be able to help.

Whatever you do, do it soon as time is getting short. Aug. 28 is deadline and we have only 30 rooms & 55 guests to date. *I will give the count again just before we print & Mail.* Still hope for 80 or more but it looks like a stretch with so many out of the west apparently not coming as well as many sick members. I have about the same count registered with me for Tours & Banquets. Fantasy bus one has only 7 to go to reach 49 capacity. I'm trying to get a second bus but smaller for overflow. Kennedy is 21 short & may not fill. N.Y. Sirloin is by far most popular Banquet meal. Don't forget Wed. is open day & trip to casino via bus from Mall is FREE. That about covers it. I believe. Many of the old standbys have not been heard from yet, particularly out of the NW & West. We seem to be having a good turn out of relatives, wives & friends.

**SATURDAY, AUGUST 7, 2004.** Yesterday I received a report on how we are doing @ Florida Mall Hotel and we are not breaking any records! We have 60 guests and 32 rooms booked. They neglected to give me total room nights but I think it would be somewhere between 112 and 122, not to far from the 130 GUARANTEED. We have only until the 28<sup>th</sup> of August to make it or reduce it so if your going please make reservations NOW. - lambert

## FINANCIAL REPORT DUES/DONATIONS/RECEIPTS

### RECEIPTS

MAY: - 0 -

JUNE: Wm. McLaughlin D 25, Henry Albonesi D 25, Wm. Keen D 10, Griffis Dineen D&D 100, Robert Mahling D 20, Raymond Yunghans D 20, Don Korkowski D 25, Joe Lutostanski D&D 75, Joe Lutostanski R 196, David Faulkner R 156, Turner Paterson R 272, Earle Harrison R269, Jim Stalter R 282, Benjamin Rich R 147.97, Raymond Sloan R 195, Don Korkowski R 266 & F. J. Lawrenz R 136. *Total for June \$2,220.97*

JULY: Abe Inkeles R 143, Walter Greenawalt D 25 & R 136, Kathy & Mel Jangard R 196, Dorothy Schickendenz Mead R 266, Casey Hasey R 133, Jerry McKinney & Charlene Wood R 269, Alvin Watson R 194, Alvin Watson D 20, Thomas & Mary Wilcox R 266, Sanford & Marilyn Jones & Guests R 538, Robert & Helen Harwell R 162, Ed & Jen Barney R 193, John & Harriet White D 18, R 157, Bobbi & Richard Sullivan R 196, Owen & Elvora Lansdowne R 184, Ashley Smith & Guest R 108, D 25, Dick Reese R 95, Jack Bornhoeft D&D 50, Carl Carrozza D 20, Norman Dwight D 25, Karl Budd D 10, Ed Barney D&D 50, Woodrow Jerman D&D 100, P. H. Faver D 25, Benjamin Rich R Bus 22, Charles D'Atrio D 25, & Kieth Gissal D&D 35 since May - sorry. *Total for July \$3,706.00. Total for 3 months \$ 5,926.97. CLOSE!*

## EXPENSES

MAY: Reimburse Lambert for Feb/Mar & Mar/Apr Phone 78.95, Paegasus Motor Coach deposit 472. *Total for May \$550.95.*

JUNE: OK Paper for Milk Run 49.71, U.S. Postmaster for stamps 37, The Austin Press & Adv. Printing Milk Run 579.14 & The Austin Press & Adv. For M. R. Postage 215.78. *Total for June \$881.63.*

JULY: - 0 - . *Total for 3 months \$1,432.58. Balance O/h and in bank as of July 31 is \$9,167.17. Amazing and only Lord knows how. PLEASE DO NOT WRITE ONE CHECK FOR REUNION AND INCLUDE DUES! WRITE TWO (2) CHECKS! I am not an accountant & almost as old as you are! THANKS!*

# V-MAIL

JOE LUTOSTANSKI & DAVID FAULKNER  
Thank you for being # 1 & #2 registrants for reunion.

BEN RICH; I've been over the money you sent a couple times & now believe your overpaid \$8.97 or owe \$6 if you plan lunch with the rest of us at Fantasy of Flight? Either way do not worry about it.

JIM STALTER; Okay.

KATHY & Mel JANGARD; Thanks for keeping me posted via computer. Gambling trip on Wed. is at no cost & their bus picks people up at the Mall but not sure of just at what entrance. I'll be checking. Pins will sell.

JACK BORNHOEFT; Thanks for new address for Charles Tibbets. Added to mailing list.

SANFORD & MARILYN JONES; Great that your daughter & son in law will make reunion with you. I am expecting my sister from upstate N.Y. with husband Skip along with son & his wife if all goes well.

ED & JEN BARNEY along with several others are coming to this reunion that haven't made one in awhile!!

DAPIINE & JOHN SMITH will be only members from our old base in England that I am aware of that will make it this year. Many are aging as we are and/or are ill. I owe so many letters over there I am ashamed.

OLLIE KIRBY is one of those not making it as his wife to be cannot get the time off. In addition they are house hunting as well as trying to set a "DATE"! I had promised to get this information in the last issue but ran out of room. Sorry. Did anyone know they had picked out the ring while at Vegas reunion & the Jewelry store not only remembered but shipped it to them!

WOODROW JERMAN; Hope your able to find someone to make the journey to Florida with you & do not blame you for not coming alone. Thanks for info on Eugene Cardon. If it hasn't ran I will do so.

NORMAN DWIGHT; sorry you & Martha cannot make reunion this year & thanks for kind words. I will pass on your "Thanks" to Ed Horn for his help. Did you get an increase? I did & I had his help as well.

NOTICE: This past issue I received back seven Milk Runs as "NOT DELIVERABLE". They are Francis Healy, Robert Boss, Paul Shorts, Karl Retzer, E. E. Harrison, Kenneth Welken & Ted Broome.

# ON SICK CALL

EARLE W. HARRISON & DICK REESE are much improved & expected at the reunion. Dick is still with back trouble & may be in wheelchair part of the time.

WM. C. McLAUGHLIN has problems that will keep him home this year.

KEITH GISSAL had "Pacemaker" installed last Dec. but says he is doing fairly well.

VERNON BRATTEN, JR. has agreed to back surgery early in August & hopefully will be feeling well enough for Florida. He has been our President for last few years and has been putting it off. I wish him a speedy recovery as you all know I need him to help keep me on the right track.

# LAST FLIGHT

RAYMOND E. ROESKE of the 497<sup>th</sup> took his last flight on July 2, 2004. Raymond suffered with lung cancer. He also was on crew with Jack White whom sent this information.

ART REINHART passed away back in March of 2000 and I do not believe I ever learned of it or ran a notice until now. Sorry. Got this word just recently from J. Leroy Schell a fellow member that is a member of MMM as was Art.

WILDA HARDIN DIED March 30, 2003. This word from Helen Harwell but she didn't give any other information other then Wilda son Bob Hardin had phoned with this much. As I said in prior issue we have & will miss her.

SPECIAL THANKS TO PATSY MEAD daughter of Eugene & Ethel Cardon. His Obituary is in this issue. All the stories, pictures etc. that you sent will appear in Milk Run that I can use, balance will go to Archives. Check will show in Financial Report next issue.

## MILK RUN

Official Publication of the  
344th Bomb Group Association  
a Non-Profit Organization

Edited & Published quarterly by Lambert Austin,  
5747 Darnell, Houston, TX 77096 Dues are \$10  
yearly or what you feel you can afford. Send  
dues, contributions, editorials, information on  
new, ill or deceased members, to above address

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Thank you **CARL CARROZZA** for making it easy for me!!

## Frank Carrozza's Restored Bomber Jacket Commemorates D-Day Invasion

June 6, 2004 marked the 60th anniversary of the invasion of Normandy: D-Day - the momentous event that would change the course of World War II and the history of the world.

My father, Frank P. Carrozza was a typical young man from Brooklyn, NY. At just 21 years of age he heeded the call of "Uncle Sam." Leaving behind his soon to be war bride, Lucy, Frank soon found himself in Stansted, England and a member of a B-26 bomber crew.

As a member of the 495th Bomb Squadron, 344th Bomb Group, Frank Carrozza's B-26 formations were among the first to attack Utah Beach, in France during the D-Day invasion of Normandy bombing coastal gun emplacements.

Over the past few years I have become interested in learning more about my father's role in World War II. Together, my father and I looked through his old paperwork and keepsakes. Perhaps the most notable keepsake was his hand painted bomber jacket. When I first saw it I of course noticed the artwork depicting his plane, known as the "Shopworn Angel." Bombs painted over the front pocket of the jacket symbolize the 65 bombing missions dad managed to survive. I also noticed that he dried out, attic dwelling, leather jacket was made to fit a much younger and lighter Frank Carrozza. The jacket was too small for dad to try on. I vowed to do something about that.

Frank Carrozza kept a log book of all 65 of his missions. He also has a list of all the men in the 495th Bomb Squadron, 344th Bomb Group during the time he served, complete with their 1944 home addresses. I posted on the website the roster and the mission log book. The log book has lots of interesting factual information but it doesn't

include any of the anecdotes I heard while growing up. I felt this information needed to be documented so I interviewed my dad on several occasions.

Many of his remembrances are now part of the website. (<http://www.geocities.com/b26carrozza>)

Here are a few regarding my dad's role in the D-Day Invasion:

"That morning we were escorted by M.P.'s to the mission briefing room. This was not the usual procedure. There was no way they were going to let details of the up coming D-Day invasion leak out.

Colonel Vance started the meeting... 'All right men, this is it. We are going out at all costs! We have painted stripes on all of our aircraft for identification. If you see a plane without them, shoot it down!

The mission was to bomb Utah beach in advance of the landing craft. Perhaps we might knock out some pill boxes or machine gun installations, but mostly the craters we created would serve as foxholes for the troops.

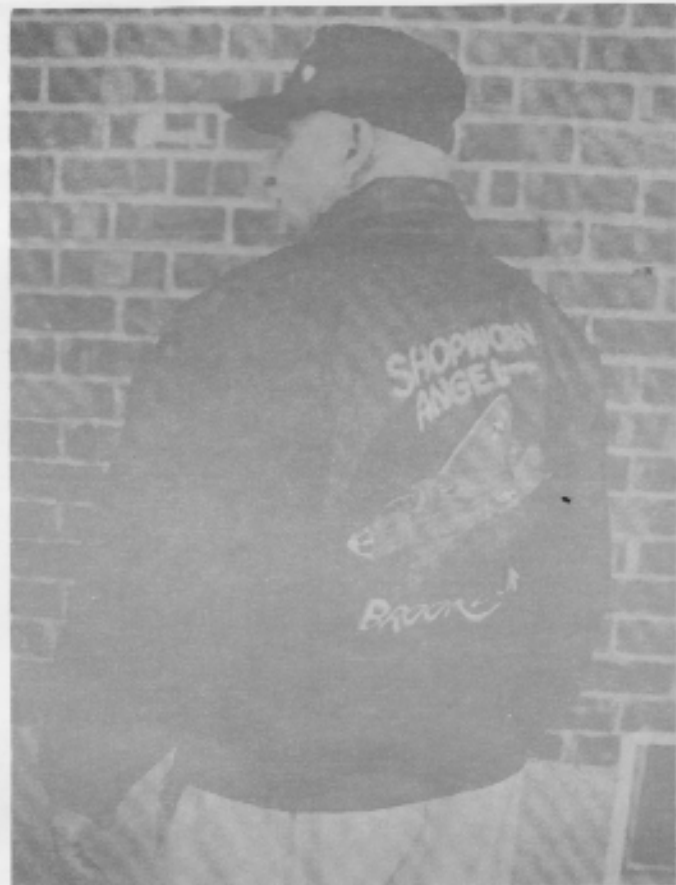
As we set out on the mission I saw so many of our ships in the English Channel that it seemed that you could walk to Normandy! That day the clouds were very low. Normally that would cause a mission to be scrubbed. We were directed to go in at all costs and so we flew under the clouds and were much closer to the ground than expected. This left us subject to greater danger. Over our intercom someone on the crew yelled, 'Hey they're shooting at us from the ground (not flak, but hand held machine guns)!'

Captain Shepherd answered, 'What are you waiting for? Shoot back!' We shot back at the source of the tracer bullets coming from their machine guns."

As the 60th anniversary of D Day approached, I thought about the venerable bomber jacket that my dad would never again be able to wear. I was able to find a company that sells the same model jacket. Getting one in his size was the easy part. How was I going to get the new jacket painted to match the original? I am fortunate to know Ellen Mahnken, a local artist who is known for her fine painting and ability to work with a wide variety of surfaces including leather.

I was overwhelmed with the strength and accuracy of Ellen's painting on the replica jacket. I couldn't wait to present dad with the jacket.

I soon made my way to Levittown, Long Island to the house that mom and dad have shared for over 50 years. Together with my siblings we presented dad with his new bomber jacket. The look of pride in his eyes was one I'll never forget.



Frank models his replica bomber jacket.



6 June 2004

Dear Lambert,

For those members interested in accessing the materials & history Carl and I collected of the 344th Bomb Group the Web site is listed below.

THE MARAUDER VOICE (Spring 2004) states that there is a cooperative relationship with the PIMA archives & both archives co-list their holdings & make them accessible to researchers.

It was a big task to inventory & ship the collection to the Univ. of Akron archives.

I hope the 344th members will avail themselves of the Carl Christ collection.

My best to Eve & family, *Edna*

### B-26 MARAUDER

<http://www3.uakron.edu/archives/>

#### THE UNIVERSITY OF AKRON

Martin B-26 Archives Advisory Council  
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Akron, OH 44325-1702

Phone: 330-972-7670  
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Email: [sp4@uakron.edu](mailto:sp4@uakron.edu)

EDNA CHRIST we thank you for finishing work that Carl & you started. I know it wasn't easy. Sorry I did not get to see the "Bulge" report that was in the "Bulge Bugle". Make a copy if you did and mail to me. Keep well. Eve & I are quite well.



Walter Zienka enjoys model of "Rosie O'Brady" given to him by family for his 80<sup>th</sup> Birthday. 11/12/03

## B-26 Marauder Archives Acquisitions

Over the past year Archival Services has received several new collections. Three of the more notable acquisitions are: new materials from the Washington Area Marauder Men, new reunion records from Robert L. Holliday and many documents and artifacts that Carl Christ spent twelve years compiling.

The Carl Christ collection consists of materials and records of the 344th Bomb Group which Mr. Christ had compiled over the past twelve years. This new acquisition contains some incredibly detailed and valuable information for anyone interested in any aspect of the 344th Bomb Group. Some highlights include: A daily history of the 344th Bomb Group including rosters, lists of targets and missions, orders and shipments, stations, commanders, campaigns, decorations, insignias, nose art photographs and more; Photographic reports; Detailed reports on the accidental bombing of Paris as well as the Christmas Eve and Christmas Day Missions in 1944; Details and commentary on the Arnhem Bridge Missions, The Battle of the Bulge and D-Day; Missing Aircrew Reports, Aircraft Mishap Reports, KIA, MIA and POW listings; All *Milk Run* articles by Carl Christ; various microfilm, videos, audio recordings and books pertaining to the 344th.

These materials are currently being cataloged and prepared for research use. It is through the generosity of the men and women who donate collections like these that ensure that The B-26 Marauder Archives at The University of Akron will continue to grow and preserve these historic materials for generations to come.

### THE MARAUDER VOICE



Left is ???

Right is EUGENE CARDON



# LAST FLIGHT

## Eugene Hurst Cardon

April 25, 1915 - Dec. 12, 2003

Eugene Hurst Cardon, 88, of Farmington, went home to his Heavenly Father on Friday morning, Dec. 12, 2003, with his family at his side. He was born to Joseph Elmer and Lucinda Hurst Cardon April 25, 1915, in Birmingham, Pima County, Ariz.

Eugene and family moved to Kirtland in 1930, where he attended Central High School and excelled in football, basketball, baseball, softball and track. He graduated in 1934. He would go early to school every winter morning and build the fire in the furnace for Mrs. Wilson.

In 1935, his family moved to Allison, Colo., and bought a large farm. He was drafted into the service in 1941 and served in the U.S. Air Force as a line chief for the 344th Bomb Group, 497th Squadron. He served in England, France and Belgium and was proud to be an honorable World War II veteran. After the war in 1947, he returned to Farmington and married Ethel Louise Wheeler Neff. He helped his wife raise her three daughters and they had one son, Jerry Eugene Cardon, in 1951. Jerry passed away June 19, 1999.

Eugene will be remembered for his hard work, love of sports, dancing, beautiful gardens, quick wit, wonderful memory and his stories. He could quote long poems and fun quotes. He loved hunting, fishing, riding horses and cooking big barbecue pit dinners for family and friends. He taught all of his daughters to dance by putting them on top of his feet and dancing in the kitchen. He loved to hear his wife sing and play the piano. Eugene was a loving husband, father and grandfather.



Cardon

STERLING CASINO TOUR Wed., Sept. 29 is FREE!! Both the 1 hour bus trip over and sailing down the coast. Be sure you call and make reservations at least 24 hours in advance. Phone 1-800-7055-7-11 or 321/784-8558. Pick-up is at So. Entrance to Florida Mall between Burdines & Adams Mark Hotel at 9:20 A.M. Bring Photo ID for boat. A 2<sup>nd</sup> trip leaves at 5:20 p.m.

# Letters To The Editor

Dr. Mr. Austin,

I enjoyed our recent phone conversation. Here is the article about my dad's bomber jacket. I know space is an issue so I made the type as small as possible. If you need to cut out one of the pictures, that would work too.

Let me know if you need anything else done.

Also find \$20 enclosed for a donation and a 1 year dues payment for my dad (already a member). Frank P. Carrozza

My address: Carl Carrozza  
86 Vosenkill Rd  
Catskill, NY 12414

Dad's address: Frank P. Carrozza  
525 Whittier Ave.  
Levittown, NY 12414

### BECAUSE YOU ASKED:

*During Ed's tour as a B-26 pilot overseas, I worked at the Barksdale Air Force Base Hospital in Shreveport, LA. Pushed a hospitality cart throughout the hospital, loaded with personal items, gifts, etc. from the Post Exchange.*

*Had the opportunity to visit daily with the patients, many of them just back from the war-and the hospital staff. It was a heartwarming experience!*

*I also performed, as a vocalist, with a small service band, at the monthly "hangar" shows on base. The mics were, at times, faulty and members of the band slightly off-key but the audience was always loud and appreciative.*

*I'm sure you will remember some of their favorites: 'That Old Black Magic,' 'I'll Be Seeing You,' 'I Walk Alone,'-and one of mine: 'He Wears a Pair of Silver Wings.'*

*Looking forward to the Orlando Reunion!  
Jen Barney (wife of Edwin S. Barney)  
Arlington, TX / jened@airmail.net*

*Jen Barney*

Lambert Austin  
344th Bomb Group Association  
5747 Darnell Street  
Houston, TX 77096

Dear Lambert,

Thanks for the note in Milk Run. I decided not to go to the 9th AF reunion for several reasons. It appeared that no one I know is going; we have a number of events in June: our granddaughters are arriving in DC tonight for a visit; the 9th AF reunion starts tomorrow; next week we have to be in New York. I also skipped the BEA convention in Chicago. And we just attended the Bush 41 Birthday bash and the parachute jump at College Station.

You might write or email the editor of the 9th Flyer to see if she would send you a copy of the magazine. You could volunteer to write a plug in Milk Run for joining the 9th Air Force Assn and getting a subscription to the magazine. The 9th Flyer. The editor is karen@smcsmc.com or Editor, 9AF.A, 301 Bayshore Drive, Newville, FL 32578. She published a review of "Memoirs of a Marauder Pilot," as well as my article, "Three Pilots Called Johnny." I am enclosing a copy of the article from the Winter 2004 edition. Thought I had sent one.

I'll try to make it to the reunion in Orlando starting September 27, but I will have to convince Joanne as our wedding anniversary is Sept 29th. Will let you know asap.

Please accept my thanks for all you have done for the 344th BG to keep it alive. I can't imagine how much work is involved. Hope you can get someone else to carry the torch.

Best regards,

*Bill*

F. William Bowers, Jr., 496th



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LAMBERT AUSTIN, SECRETARY TREASURER



A Non-Profit Organization

**P L E A S E F O R W A R D !**



## Letters To The Editor

Patsy Mead  
5001 Evergreen Drive  
Farmington, NM 87402

For:

Eugene & Ethel Cardon  
3000 E. 24<sup>th</sup>  
Farmington, NM 87402

Dear Mr. Austin:

My dad has been gone since December 12, 2003. We really miss him and I'm sorry I took so long to get the news to his friends from the War.

These are some pictures my Dad wanted you to have and to know that he thought of you often and enjoyed the reunions so much. He could remember names and people so well and was very proud of his crew picture with all of the names of who they are.

We enjoy getting your letters of what you are doing and hope you can continue to keep in touch with our Mom, Ethel. She is so lonely without Dad, she has health problems like most people at 84, but she can still drive and walks with a cane for balance.

I don't have the names of the men in the picture in-front of the hut. If you know them please write and tell me. Eugene is the 3<sup>rd</sup> from the right on the 2<sup>nd</sup> row with his hat turned up and I think that is Williamson behind him with his hat turned up.

Mr. Austin, please run Dad's last flight in the Milkrun for next month, we appreciate all the news it has brought to Mom and Dad.

Sincerely,

Patsy Mead  
505 326-4725

**H E L P !** - Misplaced envelope and information sent on this picture if you will do it again I will rerun so we can tell who & where!

Lambert



## FIRST CLASS MAIL

FRANK P. CARROZZA  
495TH  
525 WHITTIER AVE  
LEVITTOWN, NY 11756-5638

### LATE ANNOUNCEMENT

AL FREIBURGER, one of our more famous members has been diagnosed with Leukemia & at 81 is seriously ill. His wife JAN is trying to recover from her 5<sup>th</sup> Cornea Transplant. Help Eve & I pray for our good friends of many years.

5747 Darnell St.  
Houston, TX, 77096

To: 344 B.G. Members and Friends

As promised a web site operated by Mike Smith should be up and carrying our group pictures soon. These five albums will appear periodically as Mike is able to scan and process.

The first album will probably carry too many personal pictures as I started this project for family but I am sure you will find those following more interesting.

The web address: B26.com

Sincerely,

Robert L. Maxwell

RLR/76

