

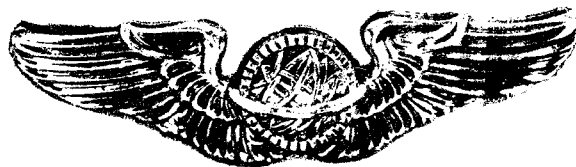
**BAM**

1987  
●  
HOUSTON

DR AHEAD

2<sup>ND</sup>  
REUNION  
OF  
THE  
ELLINGTON AFB  
NAVIGATORS' ASSOCIATION

1-5 JULY 1987



R E U N I O N  
1 - 5 J U L Y 1 9 8 7  
H O U S T O N , T E X A S

FIRST, some statistics about our ROSTER and OUR ASSOCIATION:

We have 339 names and addresses, from EAFB Classes 1943-1956.

Only 80 have made the SUGGESTED DONATIONS of \$ 10./ year.

We still have gaps and omissions, ie class designations, names of wives and home telephone numbers.

Although we stated in the November 1986 DR-AHEAD that we would only send future newsletters to contributing donors, I'm making an exception in an attempt to reach the 249 roster members who could not join us in Las Vegas, in April 1986. I hope that everyone on the roster will join us in Houston this FOURTH OF JULY! ! ! ! !

The cost of this mailing will probably equal that of the last one ie almost \$400. Forty paid for this one and another 40 paid for the last one. Are 259 of you telling us that the efforts to locate all of us is not worth your annual donation? Noone returned a roster and NOONE sent advice to be withdrawn from the roster/future mailings!!

I'm appealing to everyone of you to reconsider the value of the ASSOCIATION ROSTER in your lives. Your answer to the questions raised in this newsletter will certainly decide my role in the future AND are OBLIGATORY in my view!! 76% are WELFARE RECIPIENTS the other 24% should not be supporting. I've been advised by several class reps that their classmates have indicated they appreciate the roster, but see no reason now that they have it to support the Association. If you feel this way PLEASE advise KEN JOHNSON or ME. Each deletion from our mailing will save a BUCK!! Thank goodness the "80" have donated in every year of our existence or this would not be going out at all. S000000000000.....

We must know who will come to Houston in July. I must know your intentions by 15 March. We have 150 rooms reserved at rates not seen in Houston in decades: \$37./night, single or double (normally the published prices are \$115-135/double). We will be staying in the area immediately adjacent to the GALLERIA (the center of Houston activities) at THE LINCOLN HOTEL, POST OAK. If, as I hope will happen, more than 150 of you respond positively before 15 March, the hotel will block more of their 455 total rooms for OUR ASSOCIATION. The Hotel and Houston want us!!!! AND WE ARE AN ENDANGERED SPECIE!!!

NOW, after that abrupt, but NECESSARY intro: THE GOOD STUFF!!!!

RESERVATIONS: Each individual is responsible for his or her room accommodations and all incidental costs. The Lincoln Hotel Post Oak has supplied envelopes (inclosed) indicating the reunion dates, accommodations and rates. The rates are applicable for 3 days on either end of our 1-5 July dates, in case you want to make a full vacation out of this! Our block of rooms will be held and extended in number up 'til 10 June 1987 and they will guarantee these same rates for 1988, in case we want to make an annual return!! For every 40 rooms booked we will have one COMPLIMENTARY ROOM to be awarded to one of you, by drawing. If everyone of you attend that's fairly good odds and better then most state lotteries!! Our HOSPITALITY ROOM and all meeting rooms will be complimentary as long as at least 75 sleeping rooms are booked. Parking can be SELF or Valet (the latter is \$4 per day).



TRANSPORTATION: OUR OFFICIAL AIRLINE IS CONTINENTAL. They are reducing their already LOW RATES by 10% for 1st Class or Coach and by 5% for excursion fares. Y O U M U S T call 1-800 445 0632 (outside TX) and 1-800 392 5179 in TX AND our code is Y Z 447. Based on the number of tickets booked in this way, we will have 1/40 PRODUCTIVITY TICKETS to AWARD after the reunion for a Domestic Round Trip with Continental good for a year after the reunion. Our rates are good for 3 days on either side of our reunion dates.

You may find it easier to fly into HOBBY. The airport shuttle operates every hour from 5:30 AM to 11:30 PM for POST OAK TERMINAL and costs \$5/person. The shuttle from INTERCONTINENTAL to POST OAK TERMINAL operates the same hours, but 3 times each hour and it costs \$6.50/person. Our hotel has complimentary limousine service to and from the Hotel and Post Oak Terminal.

The Lincoln Post Oak Hotel offers free courtesy car service to any location in the Galleria area. It has two restaurants, two clubs and our committee said it is GREAT!! We received brochures from 14 hotels in Houston and 3 in Galveston and talked to representatives from each. My criteria was "Motel 6" prices with luxury!! Night clubs, theaters, restaurants from "fast to fabulous", elegant stores (in one of the world's largest enclosed malls) and even an ice skating rink (for those of you who are saying: Clarke must have forgotten what July is like in Houston!!) are all just outside the hotel's doors. You won't need a car, unless you drive in, as we plan to do (2000 miles each way).

For any hang-gliding enthusiasts the hotel's glass enclosed lobby soars 168'. The pool and sauna await you and tennis and golf is easily reached. I think we've got a great place for all of us to take a vacation from this winter--no matter what section of the country we now live in. WHERE ELSE but where we all made a BEGINNING? HOUSTON! It has GROWN, to a city of 4 million. That downtown we knew has decayed.

The Shamrock Hotel has just been donated to a hospital. The Galleria is in the western end of Houston and Ellington is 30 minutes away by car or bus. On that subject: Ellington, I have talked to the Texas Air Guard Commander there, trying to set up a memorial picnic on the Fourth. He said that there isn't a suitable spot. They fly F-4Cs and Ds. I consider everyone on our roster who lives in the Houston area as Committee, until the denials pour in. Maybe we'll be offered an alternative. Anyway I've written a request to the Air National Guard for a missing man fly-over on 4 July. Also wrote to the Confederate Air Force for a possible static display of navigation training aircraft, but unfortunately they are busy elsewhere that weekend.

That brings up the question: Why did he pick that weekend? First I wanted an official 3 day weekend, for those of you who have to hustle back to an office afterward; next the Houstonites stream out of Houston on that weekend (as do businessmen and the hotels are hungry); next July is past most family wedding dates and school graduations and FINALLY I want to have one more biggie, BEFORE I receive any more obituary notices.

#### Possible Agenda

Wednesday 1 July: Registration and Hospitality Room

Thursday 2 July: Registration, golf and tennis

Friday 3 July: NASA TOUR, golf and tennis and Mini Class reunions in the evening. I am setting up one for my class and we'll probably share a buffet dinner beforehand. Start organizing yours now-- just let me or the hotel know what you want so the rooms can be booked.

Saturday 4 July: Business Meeting at 9 AM for President, ASSN Data Processor (Ken Johnson), Class Reps and Reunion Chairman. Possible picnic from 11-3???? 5:30 or 6 PM: no host cocktails or hosted punch; 6:30 dinner for the combined association; 7:30-8: Guest Speaker from NASA and 9-12: dancing to 50s oldies but goodies.

Sunday 5 July: Buffet Breakfast and awards.

Have written to the Mayor's Office (Her Honor, Kathy Whitmire) re Byron Fuller's dream of having a navigation museum at Ellington. Also wrote to Mickey Gilley about an optional night in the world's largest pub (for all you urban cowboys and girls). Everyone may want to tour NASA and if so we can contract for city buses to handle any size group.

So that's the plan and now to see if enough of you care to do it. Some trivia: the last 4 star general, who served in WW II on active duty, just retired!! And I feel so young. If you are feeling at all like me, you don't want to wait until 1988 to reunite with your class mates and friends. Start calling them and set up a Mini on 3 July!!!

IN MEMORIAM  
FOR THOSE WHO HAVE GONE ON THE LONG CELESTIAL

HOLLIS COX, Survived by Wife Melinda. Grad July 1944. Died 1986

BYRON FULLER, Survived by Wife June. Grad 50-D. Died 1986

VICKIE RIDDLE, Survived by Husband Robert of 50-D. Died 1986

CLASS NOTES

YEAR 1943: Class 43-09 RENEE still uncontested on her claim that MORT SHERWOOD is the oldest Ellington Grad in the ASSOCIATION. They were visited last summer by the French Couple who rescued him when he bailed out over France in WW II. Also attended a reunion of the AF Evadees. Class 43-12: ROBERT McDOWELL asked if he was eligible: Feb-Apr 43 pre-flt Nav; Feb 45-Jan 46 as surplus Nav; Sep 53-Jan 58 as Nav Instr and Flt Cmdr; all at EAFB!! Class 43-13: another pre-flt'r at EAFB, BRUCE CONNORS, grad'd at San Marcos--303d Molesworth, UK until his B-17 was shot down in Mar 44, taken to Stalagluft 1 and liberated by the Russians in May 45. Class 44-(Aug) CLAUDE BECK grad at EAFB--now RET from the USAF Reserve. Class 44-8 HOWARD GAMMON grad Mar 44, then to Roswell for dual rating as Bombardier and then A-26s in the Pacific. 1950: There were many ex-bombrs who grad in classes 50-A thru 50-C. One of the most prominent in my eyes is NED HUMPHREY, who heads "BOMBARDIERS, INC", which presently has 4000 on it's mailing list and will be havings it's REUNION in San Antonio, 26-29 March. He has been very helpful to me and emphasized that they could never have grown so large, without members advertising with LETTERS TO THE EDITOR all over the country. (You'll note in our directory an "\*" after some class designations. This is there because there were concurrent student officer and aviation cadet classes, training at EAFB). As most of you know, many of the men on our roster were dual and some triple rated!!

Class 50-D: MARIE BARLOW has written several times and wishes to thank all of Bill's classmates who consoled her, after his death. (Here is the reason KEN JOHNSON and I decided that each widow of former classmates should have life membership in our ASSN.). BERT DAVIS sent a copy of his BIO to every classmate. BERNARD DIVENCENZO forwarded his BIO and discribed his career with Douglas and Boeing. A note from BYRON FULLER, prior to his death in Dec, said in part: "the reunion in Las Vegas had to be one of the most unique experiences that I have ever undergone. That is to say, saying goodbye to a group of 20 year old kids and then saying hello to a group of grandparents (35 years later).....". Yes BYRON, but you were an inspiration to all of us!!!!

Class 50-D (contd): JOE GLASGOW still toiling at Hughes. MIKE GURGEVICH is meticulously at work, restoring the SPAD and welcomes any retired engineers to come down and visit. JOE LYONS donated our SEXTANT, which is presently in Sou. Cal. He, Cindy and her parents own 50 acres of rocks west of San Antonio, 2½ miles from a paved road! JAN and BOB MCCHESENEY wrote me a terrific pick-me-up letter re the Vegas Reunion and the passing of BY FULLER. I'd like to quote a part of it, for all of you: "there will be more black-bordered cards, but if we gather now and then--maybe, just maybe, our passing will be a little sweeter--for having said goodbye to some of the best days of our lives and a few good friends will say a prayer for our having been on earth--which is all one can ask for." Thank you friends! DAVID MATSON claims his 22' Searay will ferry he and friends to Catalina if his arm is just slightly twisted. But getting him away from Hughes may be a problem. FRED MEIER claims he predicted the DOW hitting 3000 while transiting the continents in a B-52. Hope all his clients were smart enough to listen to his advice. (We went tax-free bonds years ago, tch tch). RANDALL STRICKLAND and EDITH spent the summer in Alaska. GEORGE TAYLOR sent me some napkins from Vegas (that's a friend because he had the Vegas reunion napkins printed in Tenn, brought them on the plane, took a few back to Tenn and then still answered my plea by mail--thanks Jorge). I sent the cap George gave to my Ruth, to BROCK WATSON, who has been having his share of medical problems in Corpus--get well soon for this one in Houston Brock! JIM and MARIE WILLIAMSON had their families for a gathering on the Big Island over the Christmas Holidays. RUTH and I went to Kauai and Maui for our Noel. Did not want to come back!! We see LETHEA and FRANK CORCORAN, whenever we venture south to Santa Rosa. We thank everyone who sent us cards and notes, over Christmas!

Class 50-E: TOM HEATH sent encouragement on our efforts and is joining the hunt for "lost" classmates. Class 50-F: JACK MUDIE is still calling his classmates and writing terrific newsletters. He's back at work full time insuring commercial flights have great flight plans. SILAS PURVIS said he'd try to make the next reunion--here it is!!! Class 51-01\*: GALE RAYMOND leads a fascinating life! Ask him about the Merlin 200 AEROBOT!!! Class 51-03: BOB NICHOLS is still searching for his classmates. He adds his appeal to his classmates to help in the search and to keep the DONATIONS coming in. Class 51-08: CLEMENT SMITH is insuring that his classmates keep in touch with each other. He's substitute teaching and going to school, full time!! LYN and ELAINE WARD visited LARRY and MARY JORDAN in Iowa and CHARLIE and MARTHA COKER in Oklahoma this summer. Their class is planning a mini in San Antonio in May or June. Class 51-09: WILLIAM KOTTAS wrote from VA and by now should be in contact with JOHN KRESL, courtesy of HAYS GRIFFIN in far-off Australia (and an assist by TENA!!).

Class 51-20: PETE KARNOSKI sent grad orders and I hope he's using my findem guide with success. May have moved to Vegas by now or I'd put him to work on our reunion in Houston. Classes 51-24 & 25: John THOMASON is rounding up both classes. John sent a picture of 51-25 logging their first four hours in a Gooney Bird after grad, but I can't get a good copy out. It appears that several of John's classmates switched from being guardhouse lawyers to practicing attorneys!

Class 51-28: When JOSEPH DALY isn't guarding our borders he's promised to search for classmates. I missed connections to meet him last fall so I hope he comes to Houston, with his whole class in a border patrol bus!

Class 52-03: BILL RIES is the one I'm counting on to round up this one. He saw our ad in "the Officer". It does pay to advertise. Class 53-10: seems to have a live wire in JOSEPH WARE. Not far from San Antonio Joe; bring your whole class! Class 54-12: BRUCE GOULET sent the fact that Ellington closed early in 1958 and thought the gadget program ended in 1956. Bring your Base Annual when you come and how are you doing with the "findem" guide? Class 55-02: Class 55-02? is being sought by MALCOLM DUBIN, who still carries the pen he signed into and out with at EAFB--and I thought I was sentimental!! Bring it to the Lincoln Hotel.

Class 55-06: JAMES BANNERMAN has taken up the gauntlet and may bring his class to DR AHEAD 87. He's a college professor, who I hope doesn't have a summer term. Class 55-09: RONALD JANOW may be on the trail of his classmates. Hope he does well. Class 56-02 is represented by BILL GIBSON of Houston. You're another I'll be counting on to bring this off. The MOST RECENT GRADUATE is THOMAS PERKINS of Class 56-14. He was an instructor and I'm hoping he can fill in the gaps about when EAFB closed. That's some of my correspondence since Vegas.

#### ODDS AND ENDS

There are 20 on our roster living in the Houston, Pasadena and Galveston area. We surely could use your help and suggestions on how to make this reunion memorable. POLLY and TOM HANLEY took the time to check out many hotels for me. Please give them a call if you can help.

Class integrity is the key and it will take effort on your parts to contact your own classmates and sell them on a mini on 3 July. Some of the negative comments I got after Las Vegas centered around: it was a 50-D show. Well, it wasn't intended to be and I'm doing everything I can think of to negate similar feelings in Houston. I don't even plan to talk, except perhaps to introduce a Reunion Chairman, who will in turn take over. Who will he be?

The video tape of the Vegas affair did not pan out. Should we hire a pro to record this one? Those of you who got "memory books" of Vegas please comment whether you feel they're worth the effort.

## REBUTTALS TO ARGUMENTS AGAINST HAVING A REUNION IN 1987

Believe me I have heard more reasons for not having a reunion then I've heard for. That in itself is the most important reason to go ahead with this DR AHEAD 1987. If this is the swan song of a dinosaur, not able to survive in this environment--then let us attend a wake for it in Houston this July.

As a few have said to their class representatives: we know where our classmates are now, we have the roster, so what earthly good is an association? I too am beginning to question why we tried to reach out to so many, when we have "so little" in common. Surely we all were in training at Ellington. We all served some portion of our lives in the USAAF or USAF. We came from an era that saw us drawn into three wars and long periods of "cold war" in between. Our sons and daughters were shaped by our service and many of them have served in one of our country's uniforms. We don't really know many of these "others" and we're not sure we want to. IS THAT IT?

O.K.! Then why pretend that we're waiting for our feelings to change in 1988? I think (and feel) that we should lay the quest away with some form of "class" and if individual classes or groups want to continue to meet--well met! This effort has drained me and I feel an alienation from those I, in all honesty, wanted most to bring together--MY CLASS.

Picture this: the site we chose (THE LINCOLN HOTEL POST OAK) has almost anything one could ask for--you don't have to leave it to find enjoyment--of course that could be said of each of your homes. An easy walk away is the Galleria where all the smart shops await you and restaurants of every description, in case you don't flip over the Lincoln's own eating spots. Sorry there are no games at the Astrodome that week, but you can tour it if you want. Haven't swum in the oil rich waters of Galveston lately? What is your pleasure? I want to visit with people and listen to them talk about their interpretation of the mysteries of life in this hectic world (and I'm happy to do this in the safety of the Lincoln Hotel vs taking a vacation in say Greece).

My hope--no, prayer--is that more of you then were in Vegas will opt for one last (if it must be) attempt to recapture the joy of meeting with people who share the same attitudes, because we "bought" the same glitzy package: you too can have silver wings!! BOB SCHLEGEL confided that he wore his original wings--NAVIGATOR--for his retirement ceremony. I love that and wish I'd had the insight to see, that we had the rare privilege to be trained as Navigators before technology made us obsolete. CHARLES HINTON of the GRIM REAPERS ASSN (KOREA) said: "you have a tough job because the members are only close to a small number of men--their classmates. A combat outfit is more easily bound together." I hear what he's saying, but I don't believe combat was that much more threatening, then TED MICHELS and his Tact Officers.

Come what may I'm glad I started this QUEST! If only for the fact that I'm struggling with this AMSTRAD Word Processor, which those assembled in Las Vegas, in moments of JOY, made possible by their collective gift!!



IMAGINE THIS IN EVERY  
MAJOR U.S. PAPER AND  
MAGAZINE .....

### Ellington Navigators

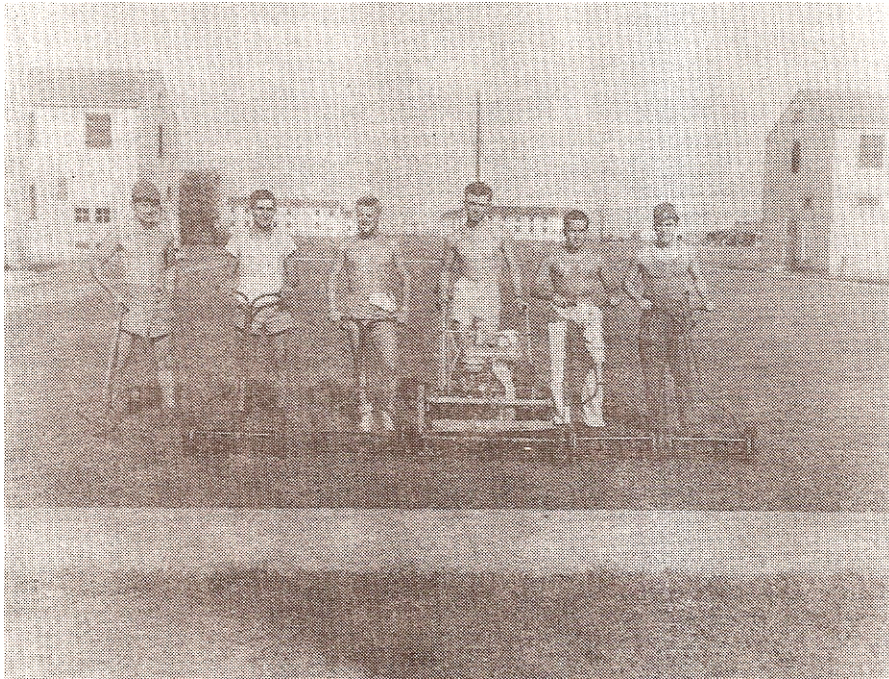
HOUSTON — We are seeking everyone who trained in, or taught, navigation at Ellington AFB, Texas, to join our association in its second reunion, July 1-5 in Houston.

There must be thousands we have not reached that we would like to have join the 338 now on our roster, including widows.

We also ask for any information on the number of classes, graduates, foreign students, mix of student officers vs. aviation cadets, highest ranks earned, and first and last graduating classes. Write The Ellington AFB Navigators' Association, 5830 Robin Hill Drive #2, Lakeport, Calif. 95453.

CLARKES. LAMPARD 2 FEB 87  
President, TENA AF TIMES

YOUR CLASSMATES  
ARE "OUT THERE",  
WAITING TO BE FOUND!



**HERMAN/Unger**



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**You don't want us to become  
extinct, do you?**



## Pentagon May Close Mather Air Force Base

Washington

The Defense Department is considering closure of Mather Air Force Base by 1991, which could mean the annual loss of \$280 million in payroll and contracts in the Sacramento area but about \$71 million in annual savings.

Citing an era of "resource scarcity," the Defense Department on Monday described Mather as "an excellent candidate" for closure.

tive Robert Matsui, who represents the Sacramento area, said that creeping unemployment around the base and the loss of air space would be a disaster.

Mather, with 6200 military and civilian workers and 13,000 dependents, is no longer useful as a navigational training command because of technological advances in weapons. Air Force officials said.

Assistant secretary of the Air Force, Ty McCoy, told Representatives that the base could be closed by 1991.

Associated Press

THE ELLINGTON AFB NAVIGATORS ASSN.  
CLARKE LAMPARD, PRESIDENT  
5830 ROBIN HILL DR. #2  
LAKEPORT, CA 95453

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