



# FLIGHT LINE



## Newsletter of the 780th Bomb Squadron

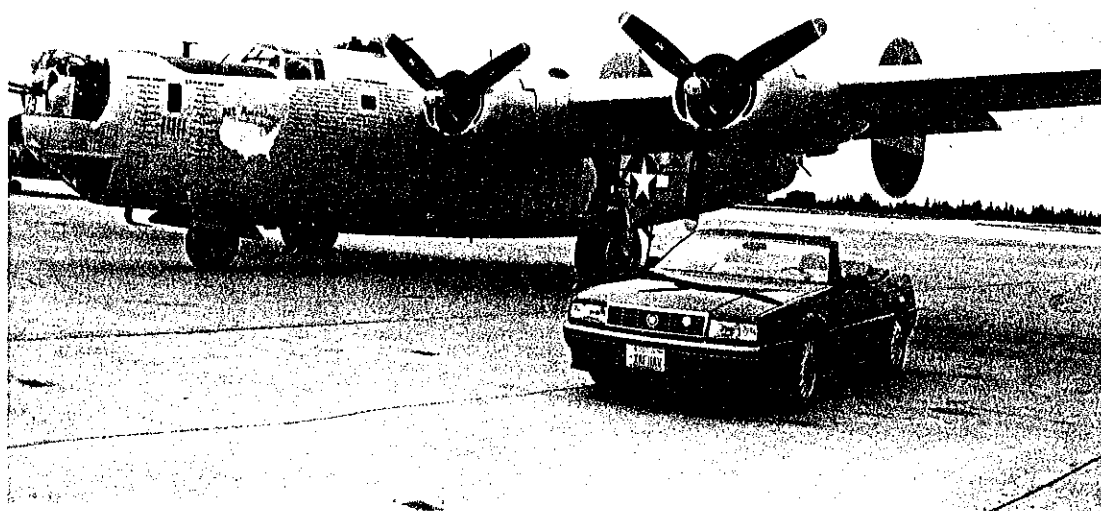
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June, 2000



When the B-24 All American (also now known as The Tail of the Dragon) was in San Jose, I managed to get permission from NASA to bring my Allante on the field, early, and photograph it with the B-24. We hope to use it on the cover of a magazine published in Marin County, Calif. by Mike Eggert, President of the Allante Avenues.

John Fleisher called. He said that he has reserved 50 spaces for the Grand Ole Opry, but he has to know in advance how many want to go. WE ALL WILL! As he will be traveling, be sure to let me know at least 45 days in advance, and I'll collect all the info for him. Don't wait...do it now!

John certainly deserves our thanks. He's doing all the work entailed even though he's had a triple bypass, and has had a collapsed lung drained! If you haven't sent in your reservations yet, here it is again. And don't forget to let me know about the Opry!

Single: \$72.00

Double: \$72.00

Extra Person: \$5.00

Smoking \_\_\_\_\_ Non-Smoking \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Arrival Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Departure Date: \_\_\_\_\_

No. Adults: \_\_\_\_\_ No. Children: \_\_\_\_\_ Type Room(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Credit Card: Type of Credit Card \_\_\_\_\_

Name on Credit Card \_\_\_\_\_

Credit Card Number \_\_\_\_\_

Expiration Date \_\_\_\_\_

Check \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Enclosed

Check In: 3:00PM

Check Out: 11:00AM

Rates are subject to 13.25% tax (8.25% sales tax and 5% room tax)

If an individual needs to cancel, they must do so 24 hours prior to arrival date.

Special room type and/or location is on a request basis only, depending upon availability.

*Here's an interesting letter that I received from James Joyce of Brewster, NY. For those of you who are within range, this looks like a greast evening of fun, and a worthy cause for not much money. Sorry that I'm on the wrong coast!*

**Subj: Big Band Event in Memory of Ending of WW 2 & KIA Bomber Pilot**

Hello I'am contacting you to see if any members of your organization would like to attend an event to Honor a Bomber Pilot who lived in our community and was shot down with all his crew KIA. We recently had a Big Band event with a 1944 USO theme on Memorial Day and it was a big success being attended by a member of the U.S.Congress and many other Dignitaries. We even served soda in vintage period bottles. We will also Dedicate a 5 x 4 Frame to hang in our Pavilion (Dance Hall) filled with a print, photos, medals, & information on the Pilot. This event looks to be bigger then the last to which we received good Press coverage. If you have a newsletter can you place this in it in case you have members who live in the area who may want to attend. We are located in North Salem, N.Y. on Peach Lake called Vails Grove. We are about 1 1/2 hours drive north of New York City and a few miles west of Danbury, Connecticut right off of Interstate 84 & 684. There is plenty of lodging in the area. So if you would love to hear and dance to the tunes of Glenn Miller and others with a 15 piece orchestra on a beautiful New York State Lake contact me. This event is also to relive the same event 55 years ago in our Pavilion upon the official ending of World War II. Tickets are only \$20 a person and all profits go towards improving a park in the Veterans honor. You can contact me at e-mail: JJOYCE39@aol.com, or home phone 914-669-5224, or pager 1-888-589-3418, or address: 8 Orchard Road, Brewster, N.Y. 10509.

Thank you for  
your support to remember One of America's Brave Fallen, James Joyce.

*Jim, could you give me the name of the Pilot, and the date?*

Sure he was 1st Lt. Don J. Gilliland a B-24D Pilot (also flew B-17E's) shot down April 15, 1943 over Kiska by Japanese Anti-aircraft fire. The date of the event is September 2, 2000 a Saturday from 7pm tp 11pm. Thanks, Jim Joyce



**U.S. AIR FORCE**

**This is a drawing of a proposed official logo of the United States Air Force.**

*I have been answering inquiries from historical organizations in Poland, Hungary, Austria and Czechoslovakia. Here's a web cite you may want to visit:*

Subj: Re: Re: 780th Bomb Group over Poland in WW2  
 Date: 6/8/2000 6:50:18 AM Pacific Daylight Time  
 From: szymon.serwatka@db.com  
 To: Bobbleier@aol.com

Hello!  
 My friends and I just set up an English version of our WWW page dedicated to USAAF missions to Poland in WW2. Please feel free to visit it.  
 The address is [www.samoloty.ip.pl/amiap/](http://www.samoloty.ip.pl/amiap/)  
 I hope the site is interesting for all of you.  
 Your comments are welcome!  
 Szymon Serwatka

*As a matter of interest, here is a list of our early leaders. Anyone you know?*

### The Nation's Air Arm and Its Early Leaders

Designation	Commander (at highest rank)	Dates of Service
<b>Aeronautical Division, US Signal Corps</b> Aug. 1, 1907–July 18, 1914	<b>Chief, Aeronautical Division</b> Capt. Charles deForest Chandler Capt. Arthur S. Cowan Capt. Charles deForest Chandler Maj. Samuel Reber	Aug. 1, 1907–June 30, 1910 July 1, 1910–June 19, 1911 June 20, 1911–Sept. 9, 1913 Sept. 10, 1913–July 17, 1914
<b>Aviation Section, US Signal Corps</b> July 18, 1914–May 20, 1918	<b>Chief, Aviation Section</b> Lt. Col. Samuel Reber Lt. Col. George O. Squier Lt. Col. John B. Bennet	July 18, 1914–May 5, 1916 May 20, 1916–Feb. 19, 1917 Feb. 19, 1917–May 20, 1918
<b>Division of Military Aeronautics, Secretary of War</b> May 20, 1918–May 24, 1918	<b>Director of Military Aeronautics</b> Maj. Gen. William L. Kenly (Kept same title three months into absorption by Air Service)	May 20, 1918–August 1918
<b>Army Air Service</b> May 24, 1918–July 2, 1926	<b>Director of Air Service</b> John D. Ryan Maj. Gen. Charles T. Mencher	Aug. 28, 1918–Nov. 27, 1918 Jan. 2, 1919–June 4, 1920
	<b>Chief of Air Service</b> Maj. Gen. Charles T. Mencher Maj. Gen. Mason M. Patrick	June 4, 1920–Oct. 4, 1921 Oct. 5, 1921–July 2, 1926
<b>Army Air Corps</b> July 2, 1926–Sept. 18, 1947 <sup>a</sup>	<b>Chief of Air Corps</b> Maj. Gen. Mason M. Patrick Maj. Gen. James E. Fechet Maj. Gen. Benjamin D. Foulois Maj. Gen. Oscar Westover Maj. Gen. Henry H. Arnold	July 2, 1926–Dec. 13, 1927 Dec. 14, 1927–Dec. 19, 1931 Dec. 20, 1931–Dec. 21, 1935 Dec. 22, 1935–Sept. 21, 1938 Sept. 29, 1938–June 20, 1941
<b>Army Air Forces</b> June 20, 1941–Sept. 18, 1947	<b>Chief, Army Air Forces</b> Lt. Gen. Henry H. Arnold	June 20, 1941–March 9, 1942
	<b>Commanding General, AAF</b> Gen. of the Army Henry H. Arnold Gen. Carl A. Spaatz	March 9, 1942–Feb. 9, 1946 Feb. 9, 1946–Sept. 26, 1947
<b>United States Air Force</b> Sept. 18, 1947	<b>Chief of Staff, USAF</b> Gen. Carl A. Spaatz	Sept. 26, 1947–April 29, 1948

The title General of the Army for Henry H. Arnold was changed to General of the Air Force by an Act of Congress May 7, 1949. The position of Chief of Staff was established by a DoD-approved Army-Air Force Transfer Order issued Sept. 28, 1947.

<sup>a</sup>The Army Air Corps became a subordinate element of the Army Air Forces June 20, 1941. Since the Army Air Corps had been established by statute in 1926, its disestablishment required an act of Congress, which did not take place until 1947. Between March 9, 1942, and Sept. 18, 1947, the Army Air Corps continued to exist as a combatant arm, and personnel of the Army Air Forces were still assigned to the Army Air Corps.



# TAPS



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**Friday, May 5, 2000**

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## OBITUARIES

### **Gordon Edwin Young**

Gordon  
Edwin Young,  
75, of  
Brethren,  
d i e d  
Wednesday,  
May 3, 2000 at



his residence. He was born March 18, 1925, in Muskegon, the son of William and Winnifred (Strong) Young.

A veteran of WWII and the Korean Conflict, serving in the US Airforce, 465th Bombardment group, he flew 48 missions with the 780th squadron as an Engineer Gunner.

Gordon enjoyed walking, fishing, hunting, mushroom hunting, and most of all, spending time with his family and his dogs, and just being at home.

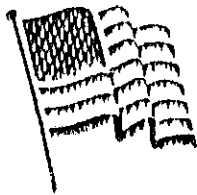
On February 14, 1970, Gordon married Beverly Belle Beach, who survives him. He is also survived by: his children, David L. Young, Karen L. Young, Nancy (Tom) Menck, Terry A. Young, Karen

(Joe) Springer, Alan Tassell, all of the Kalamazoo area, and Vicky (Terry) Pearson of England; 12 grandchildren; two great-grandchildren; his sister, Betty (Victor) Mabus of Colorado; two brothers, William (Joan) Young and Jack (Virginia) Young, both of the Kalamazoo area; and numerous nieces and nephews.

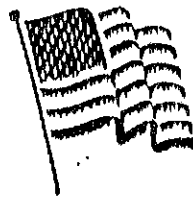
Gordon was preceded in death by: his parents; and his daughter-in-law, Lucille Young.

Memorial services will be conducted at 1 p.m. Monday, May 8 at the Terwilliger Funeral Home in Kaleva, with the Rev. Russell Garrigus officiating. Interment will be in Brethren Cemetery. The family will receive friends from 12 p.m. until time of services on Monday at the Terwilliger Funeral Home.

Memorial contributions may be made to Munson Home Health Private Services or Munson Hospice, 1105 Sixth St., Traverse City, MI 49684-2386.



# TAPS



MC L SW S N Chicago Tribune, Thursday, May 18, 2000 Section 2

## OBITUARIES

### Lloyd Norlin, 82, musician, award-winning songwriter

By James Janega  
TRIBUNE STAFF WRITER

Lloyd B. Norlin, 82; whose music was nominated for an Academy Award in 1942, won two Emmy Awards in the 1970s, was performed at Mt. Rushmore during the nation's bicentennial and graced off-Broadway shows in Chicago; died Thursday, May 11, in his Barrington home of a heart attack.

He was a cheerful man with a curmudgeonly sense of humor, a versatile musician who wrote music in his head and often stopped on the street to jot a melody in a notepad. When called upon to play piano, he could easily play improvised arrangements in any style called for.

"He could sit down to a piano and it happened," said his wife, Georgia. "Everything was a solid thing for him."

A staunch defender of what he saw as a song's original context, Mr. Norlin was also exacting, having little patience for arrangers who so modified, souped up or altered a piece that the end result was unrecognizable.

For most of his life, he wrote show tunes, sentimental pieces marked by meticulous chord structures, bouncy phrasing, and lyrics that were a throwback to simpler days.

Mr. Norlin was born in Sioux Falls, S.D., where he showed an early aptitude for music, singing in

glee clubs and playing piano, though he was known in town as the place kicker on his high school football team. He attended a local college, but transferred to Northwestern University, earning a bachelor's and then a master's degree in music by 1942.

He was a standout music writer, winning a college song writing contest in 1942, as well as an Oscar nomination for his song "Out of the Silence," sung by Frances Langford in the 1941 movie "All American Coed."

He received a contract from Paramount Pictures, but Mr. Norlin volunteered for the Army Air Forces. Between 1943 and 1945, he flew 55 missions as a tailgunner on a B-24 bomber based in Italy. When he returned, union troubles at Paramount prevented him from beginning his career there; he instead came back to Northwestern as an assistant music composition teacher.

His work with NU's variety show, Waa-Mu, allowed him to work with singers and actors who would soon become household names. The 1945 show alone starred Paul Lynde, Charlotte Rae, Cloris Leachman and director Robert Wright.

Following a brief stint writing musical scores for Warner Brothers, Mr. Norlin opened a studio in Evanston, teaching piano and writing music for Wilding Pictures in Chicago, becoming the group's musical director from 1950 until 1958.



Lloyd B. Norlin

Much of his work after that received chiefly industry recognition. He wrote music for commercials, won a prize for his 1960 song "I'm from Sioux Falls, South Dakota," and continued to write pieces for Waa-Mu. In 1970 and 1971, he won Emmy Awards for his work on WMAQ-TV's "New Performers" show.

"Music moved Lloyd in an emotional way that I don't know what else could," his wife said. "What did he like about music? He liked to make people happy. He liked to hear it performed."

In addition to his wife, Mr. Norlin is survived by a son, Eric B.; a daughter, Nancy N. Engdahl; a brother, Merle; and six grandchildren.

A memorial service will be held at 2 p.m. Saturday, June 10, in the Alice Miller Chapel, 1870 Sheridan Rd., Evanston.