



# 780<sup>TH</sup> NEWS

ISSUE NO. 3

MAY, 1968

DALLAS, TEXAS

## CHARLIE LOSES FIGHT



On January 22, 1968, Charlie Davis lost his greatest battle when he passed away following a year bout with cancer. Thus, in this 25th year since the organization of the 780th we come to the end of the career of the one man who made the squadron more than just a brief episode in our lives. For it was through his single handed efforts that the 780th Squadron Association was officially born in Chicago in 1963, and has continued to date.

No one will ever know the countless hours of time that Charlie spent in locating, contacting and bringing together the members of the 780th. Suffice it to say that he worked constantly since 1945 in bringing the organization together formally and physically. During this period he had literally written thousands of letters in his efforts for a 780th organization and for his own personal pleasure in keeping track of his many friends and buddies which served with him in W.W. II.

Charlie did so many things for all of us over the years that it would take volumes to try to enumerate even half of them. However, the two most important events have to be mentioned here. His single handed publication of the beautiful Squadron History was a great undertaking which will be enjoyed by all of us for years to come. After all, you never see a gathering of 780th members without seeing a Squadron History book in evidence. All of us will naturally think of Charlie everytime we pick up the volume.

Charlie's planning for a National Organization with the first convention in Chicago in 1963 will remain in our memories always. Although, it was the boys in Chicago who put on the reunion, it was Charlie who put together the idea and promoted it. Therefore, as we look forward to the coming

Silver Anniversary Reunion in Dallas in August, we must remember that it just would not be happening if it hadn't been for Charlie and his tremendous dedication to the 780th.

What can one say to express the fond feelings we all had for Charlie and for the great void that his passing will make in our organization and in our personal lives. Possibly the third paragraph of the commendation which was presented to Charlie at the last convention expresses it as well now as it did then and is quoted below:

"WHEREAS, we here in Meeting in Chicago in August of 1963 can no longer restrain this urge to salute this man among men for so many fine reasons, not the least of which has been his unretiring tenaciousness, his inspiring will to get the job done, his determination to succeed in spite of all obstacles, his kind and sincere treatment of others around him, his willingness to tackle the biggest, the toughest assignment and yet reflect the spirit of real joy of accomplishment, his constant understanding of man and what motivates him to want to do the job better.

It is for these and so many more reasons that we, the undersigned, wish to show by our own hand our unlimited respect and our admiration for our own CHARLIE DAVIS this 10th day of August, in the year of 1963.

BY THE CHARTER MEMBERS OF THE  
780th BOMB SQUADRON ASSOCIATION.  
(79 Signature followed)."

### THUMB NAIL SKETCH-

by Gene Kosciński

At a recent get together here in our smog filled city of LA, it was suggested we write some kind of thumbnail sketch of ourselves.

First of all let me relate to you my enthusiasm over our get together. Mr. Wallace, our generous host, went to extremes to render us a truly "posh evening". The entire evening bubbled over with fine food, drinks and lots of other goodies.. but most of all we enjoyed an evening of warm, interesting conversations where we once again cemented our relationship together. I tell you we have a wonderful and friendly group. They say there is nothing that creates camaraderie as that which comes from men who have been together in some war. Here was living proof of it.

At any rate as for myself, I was a bombardier of Lt. Sigles Crew. Our co-pilot was John Serpico and we now live only about a mile away from each other and have been post war buddies for many years. I also live near and associate with a few other fellows with whom I went through cadet training. Like so many veterans, I was undecided about the future so I bashed about the beaches of California and Florida about 3 years. This period of time was interspersed with some college attendance. I later worked in a bank for about 5 years as a credit adjuster which is a fancy name for a bill collector. It was interesting and enlightening and in a way profitable since it was there that I met the woman who is now my wife. After five years at the bank I decided to go again to college. Since I was already majoring in "nothing" my counselor suggested that I get on the ball and become something or to put it more clearly, to learn a trade. Well it seemed rather apparent to me that since I was having trouble finding a job as a bombardier that I had better get into a line for which there was a greater demand. A friend suggested I go into the hairdressing business on Thursday and by Friday I was enrolled and practicing in a beauty college. I have been in the business ever since - 14 years - and I enjoy it and all the fun with the women. I like it because it doesn't weight too heavily on my mind.

We live here in Woodland Hills, Calif. just outside of LA and very close to the beach, by standards of measurement in the freeway filled city. I really like Calif. and am glad my eye caught this place when I was unloaded in downtown LA on my way to pre-flight school in Santa Ana.

Do any of you ever visit or think about the places where you were stationed? We often go through some of the places and it's kind of sad reflecting back at the times spent there. It all seems like another time and another world. Hard to believe it took place.

We have 3 children 4 8 and 11.

Hope to see a large group in Dallas and I'm sure that the Eastern fellows will carry the ball once again. They did a good job turning up in SF what with the strike etc....

### WE WELCOME FROM OUR UNKNOWN LIST THE FOLLOWING ACTIVE AND DUES PAYING MEMBER

Tate, Robert L.  
2221 E. Cardinal Dr.  
Indianapolis, Ind. 46227

### ANOTHER MEMBER LOCATED:

Priddy, John  
Box 92  
Buchanan Dam, Texas

### WHAT'S HAPPENED IN MCCOOK?

by Len Stelmach

Naturally it has changed quite a bit, moved ahead and is now a very prosperous little city. The population has increased considerably. They brought in a factory which began operation in July 1966 and will employ around 300 people. As for as our old Army Air Base, the government made a job corp camp out of it. They have about 200 boys stationed out there. The government also built a big dam about 5 miles north of the air base. It really is a huge dam, and is an ideal lake for fishing, boating, and recreation grounds. My wife and I moved back to McCook about 15 years ago and we think it is the only place to live and raise a family.

### CHANGE OF ADDRESSES:

Beak, Richard S.  
4462 Cherry Valley Turnpike  
LaFayette, N.Y. 13084

Beyrer, J. Benj.  
Univ. of Connecticut  
School of Social Work  
Greater Hartford Campus  
West Hartford, Conn. 06117

Col. Olen C. Cook 38785-A  
Rt. 62365 Crossfield Rd.  
Sumter, S. C.

Dibb, Earl R.  
12907 DeHaven Ave.  
Sylmar, Calif. 91342

Farek, Marvin J.  
4029 Kevin Dr.  
Corpus Christi, Texas 78413

Freed, Max  
13451- Riverside Dr.  
Sherman Oaks, Calif.

Harris, W.C.O., Jr.  
2812 N. Main St.  
Ft. Worth, Texas 76106

Larsen, Stuart D.  
24 Drummond Lane  
New Canaan, Conn. 06840

Miers, Harold W.  
470 N. Windsor Ave.  
Brightwater, N. Y. 11718

Saporita, Carl  
28 Seneca Ave.  
San Francisco, Calif. 94112

Steinkerchner, Arthur B.  
827 E. Michigan  
Marshall, Mich. 49068

Swanson, Monroe H.  
11147 S. Michigan  
Chicago, Ill.

HIMES, LUTHER R., JR.  
E. Pipeline Road  
Hurst, Texas

### T H A N K S

To those who took the time to write material for this newsletter and the regional get-togethers. We need more of this type of item, so please keep them coming. Also, please send pictures in black and white only as the color shots will not reproduce well in offset.



Above pictured are those who attended the meeting in Los Angeles November, 1967.  
 Left to right: Top Row - Fristoe Wallace, Gene Kosciński, Earl Francis, Bud Line  
 Middle Row - Lee Englehorn, Rolland Cohen, Ralph DeSantis, Howard Williams  
 Al Ettlin, Max Freed  
 Bottom Row - Bernie Bezinover, Sal Rodriguez, Charlie Davis, Orlo Wilcox, Jim  
 Hanselman, Bob Bleier

#### WALLACE FURNISHES A NIGHT TO REMEMBER IN L.A.

by Bernie Bezinover

A most memorable evening was enjoyed by a contingent from the Western Region on Saturday night, November 4, 1967, at the suggestion of Charlie Davis (who else?) and through the efforts of Bud Line and myself and a good right arm, my wife (Molly). The major credit, however, goes to one of our buddies, Fristoe Wallace and his lovely wife, Bette, who were our most genial and generous hosts for the evening. Fristoe happens to be the General Manager of the Sheraton Wilshire Motor Inn, one of the nicer hotels in Los Angeles. Fristoe had a suite of rooms set up as a cocktail lounge and also for delectable hos d'ourves such as oysters on the half shell, etc. We then adjourned to another suite for dinner which was sumptuous. It was a meal fit for a king and the entire tab was picked up by him.

Charlie Davis, our guest of honor, made the evening perfect by flying down from San Francisco to join us. Charlie made a presentation of a Squadron Book to Fristoe. It seems that he made contact with a printing company that reproduced our squadron book and a beautiful job they did.

There were twenty-five of us present and this truly was a night to be remembered.

#### LETTER FROM COL. OLEN C. COOK

"Thank you very much for the 780th News Issue #1. Due to the continued fine efforts of men like Charlie Davis, you, et al, the winning spirit prevails and grows. A few brush fires and some smoke; however, with your permission I'll be in Dallas on 2,3, and 4 August '68.

With best regards to all,  
 Olen C. Cook"

We have waited 25 years to be able to grant you permission. PERMISSION GRANTED, COLONEL. See you in August.

#### REGIONAL GET TOGETHER HELD IN S.F.

by Mrs. James Corry

Sixteen members of the 780th Squadron sat down to a fine regional "Get together" on Saturday evening, October 28, 1967 in the beautiful dining room of the Jack Tar Hotel, the scene of the last National Reunion.

After a pleasant cocktail hour and a lovely dinner, we adjourned to a small meeting room to discuss plans for 1968 in Dallas among other things. Plane information, special rates and how to get them within the time limits set up by the airlines was fully covered. The following weekend get together in Los Angeles was brought up and the hope expressed some of us would fly down and represent the "North" (Bob and Charlie actually did we hear - good for them).

Charlie also exhibited a sample of "The Book" showing the new process which makes coping just about perfect - particularly pictures which up to now have been outlines only, and not very good ones.

In attendance were: Bob Bleier, Mr. and Mrs. James Corry, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Dodd, Mr. and Mrs. Ernie Fallentine, Mr. and Mrs. John McWhorter, Mr. and Mrs. Carl Saparito, Mr. and Mrs. Marcellus Stromberg, Mr. and Mrs. Charlie Davis and Carol.

ED. Note: Sorry no good reproducible pix from S.F. meeting.

#### DID YOU RECOGNIZE YOUR BUDDIES AFTER TWO DECADES?????

Remember a free registration for the 1968 reunion in Dallas was to be given to the one who could identify the most of your old sqdn. buddies. When HOBART PAIGE of Brattleboro, Vt. arrives in Dallas his bonus prize plus his registration will be waiting for him. Hobie had 25 names correct.

# SILVER ANNIVERSARY REUNION BAKER HOTEL - DALLAS

## AUGUST 1-4, 1968

### REGISTRATION FEES:

Men \$17.00      Women \$13.00  
No charge for children, however, if they attend a luncheon or banquet they must have a ticket. These tickets may be purchased at \$4.00 for luncheon or \$6.00 for banquet.

### BUS TOUR OF CITY

The bus leaves the hotel at 2 P.M. and returns at 4 P.M. Cost: \$2.50 each (children under school age free).

### SIX FLAGS OVER TEXAS:

A Six Flags visit will be like going to a small Disneyland. A 115 acre wonderland - the Southwest's most unusual and popular recreational adventure. Over 75 thrilling rides, unique attractions and lively shows. Cost: \$4.50 adults; \$3.50 children (under 12) --- This cost includes free main gate admission and all the more than 75 rides, attractions and shows. This is great - the children may ride the rides as many times as they wish and who knows we adults might do the same.

### REUNION HEADQUARTERS:

The BAKER HOTEL in the heart of downtown Dallas will be your headquarters. The hotel offers excellent food in their dining room and you will be most welcome by the entire staff.

#### Room Prices:

Single	\$10.00 to \$16.00
Double	\$13.00 to \$19.00
Twin	\$15.50 to \$19.00

Free parking & children under 12 free.

### LADIES - LET'S GO SHOPPING ETC.

Want to visit Neiman-Marcus now is your change. We plan on having a dutch treat luncheon in Neiman's beautiful Zodiac Room at a cost of \$2.95 plus tip. You will be able to shop before and after lunch. There are several other beautiful stores close and everyone will be able to find something to their liking. Be sure to wear comfortable shoes for walking.

### REUNION SCHEDULE

Thursday - August 1, 1968

7:00-9:00 PM - Early Bird Registration

Friday - August 2, 1968

8:30 AM-Noon - Registration

12:30 P.M. - Luncheon (incl. in Registration)

2:00 P.M. - Visit with Friends

4:00-10:00 PM - Bus Tour of City (Dutch Treat)  
Six Flags over Texas (Dutch Treat)

Evening on Town with buddies (Dutch Treat)

Saturday - August 3, 1968

9:00 A.M. - Men's Business Session

10:00 A.M. - Women Shop Downtown

12:30 P.M. - Men's Luncheon (incl. in Registration)

12:30 P.M. - Women Luncheon & Styleshow (Dutch Treat)

3:30 P.M. - Beer Bust - Courteous of Pittsburg Plate Glass.

7:00 P.M. - Cocktail Party - No Host

7:45 P.M. - Banquet (incl. in Registration)

Following Banquet - "Old Fashion Sing Song & Social Hour)

Sunday - August 4, 1968

On your own to see city, visit with old friends. Hope you had a good time and will come back again.

### LET'S TALK REUNION.

by Wanda Dannelly

Let's talk reunion and that is exactly what we did at a recent meeting in the home of Rosser Dannelly with Mr. & Mrs. Jack Moore, Mr. & Mrs. Herman Minnick and Mr. & Mrs. Chas. Dodge in attendance. Needless to say, before discussing the forth coming reunion, we had to visit and renew old friendships.

There are many plans in the making, but here are just a few: Bus tour of the City; Beer Bust - Courteous of Pittsburg Plate Glass; A visit to Six Flags Over Texas (Our Disneyland); Old Fashion Sing Song. There will be ample time to visit with buddies.

We here in Dallas are planning on seeing each of you here this summer and will try to make your stay in Big "D" a pleasant and memorable one.

PLAN NOW TO BE IN DALLAS AUGUST 2,3,4 for the SILVER ANNIVERSARY OF THE 780th.

## THIS IS BIG "D"



LETTER FROM ED TROTT

Dated July 15, 1966

"Since we corresponded last, I have received a contract as Head Coach, Rifle (Smallbore) at the Naval Academy, in addition to other duties; our former head coach having gone by the deep six in March.

We had a very successful season in rifle last year. My freshman team now holds 2 national championships, also a second place in the freshman postal rifle matches. We set several new gallery and individual records.

My varsity squad took a second place in the Eastern Division Intercollegiate Postal Matches and turned around to win National Championship honors in the National Intercollegiate Postals (Conventional) with a very fine score of 1450 (five man team). Of course, Army beat the Hell out of us, as did West Virginia Univ, the ###"?\*##\$%&\* so and sos.

I have been on leave for the past two weeks trying to take up the slack on some work around home and my garden but it has been too hot to work. Now how about getting me orders for a week of rest and rejuvenation at the Cannes recreation area, with full pay and allowances of course?

Best of luck to all hands. Have a double for me.

Have an unanimous vote for the next convention on the East Coast."

LETTER FROM J. W. WYLIE, JR.

"I just mailed Ed my dues, 22 years is a long time to be AWOL, decided I had better get back in the family.

My intentions was good in 63 and 66 but I just couldn't make it. When the Sq. was in S.F., I was in New York, but come hell or high water I plan to be in Dallas.

The 780th News said the Sq. was Activated in Alamogordo, N.M. That was on paper only, I was one of the first 10 men that Col. Cook picked up and I was in Tuscon, Arizona. I remember the deal because I ranked Chester Brozek and he tried to put me on K.P.

The welcome mat is out any time you and the family are down this way. We live in the new addition in Frankston."

LETTER FROM EDWARD RATKOVICH, COLONEL USAF

Dated June 29, 1966

"As you can see I'm still in the service very much so here in Vietnam. However, I rotate to the states in about ten days.

My family will meet me in S.F. and we plan on staying in the area for a few days before driving a rented car to Los Angeles and points east. I have asked for guest quarters at Hamilton AFB.

Ratkovich - Cont'd

It is unfortunate for me that the timing of the reunion is exactly one month later, but I may still make it since my reporting date to the Pentagon is not until 25 August.

This past year has been one of the most interesting of my life. It has been an awfully tough year with 12 to 16 hour work-days and a 7 days a week schedule but I'm satisfied that it was all necessary. I have been the B-52 Targeting Officer for General Westmoreland and, as you have read in the papers, we have been very busy."

LETTER FROM W.O. HARRIS

Dated Dec. 27, 1966

"For the past two years I was president of the Tarrant County Chapter of the Texas Mobile Home and Travel Trailer Association. Our Chapter grew from 53 members to 135 during this period and gave me almost another full time job. I took office at a time when there was quite a bit of friction in the state organization and our chapter with the help of the Dallas Chapter decided to do something about it. The Dallas Chapter is about 60 strong. With a little help from 2 small chapters we elected a whole new slate of officers for the state at Convention. There are 13 chapters in the state but only about 500 members overall. Each 5 members gives a chapter a delegate at the state convention.

Our convention this year was at the same time as the squadron reunion I'm sorry to say and we had to go back to San Antonio in strength to see that they didn't run the old bunch back into office. The S.A. Chapter has run the state until 1965 since the association was formed about 20 years ago.

September 1, 1966 I leased a new location for my business and have been trying to consolidate my retail lot and manufacturing plant. This has been one big job and we still aren't finished. Good help has been so hard to get that can be afforded.

I believe our dues are \$3.00 aren't they. Enclosed find check in this amount.

We look forward to being with the gang in '68 at Dallas."

DECEASED SINCE LAST NEWSLETTER

LLOYD N. CLARKE - July 25, 1967  
CHARLIE DAVIS - Jan. 22, 1968  
R. R. MARKLEY, JR. - May 1, 1967

## IMPORTANT REUNION FORM

Please complete and return to: Rosser Dannelly, 5851 McCommas St., Dallas, Texas 75206 in order that we may make the necessary preplanning arrangements for the August Reunion. NOTE: This is not a firm reservation as we will send another mailer at the end of June which will have the necessary registrations forms attached. We do need your help in getting the form below returned for this is the only way that we can anticipate the number who will be attending.

Cut along line

Return to: Rosser Dannelly, 5851 McCommas St., Dallas, Texas 75206

Name \_\_\_\_\_ No. Attending \_\_\_\_\_

Wife's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Children Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Arrival \_\_\_\_\_ Mode of Travel \_\_\_\_\_

Will Attend Reunion in August, 1968 will stay at the Convention Hotel \_\_\_\_\_

