

NASHVILLE REUNION
August, 1997
Written By John Underwood, 764th Squadron

Wednesday, August 20

Betty and I had a nice trip down from Michigan, it rained on us some. Checked into the Marriott. Met George and Elenore Miller and Daulton and Erma Verner of the 764th in the lobby. We settled on a table for the Saturday night banquet. Also ran into John Oliver of the 764th. I had not seen him since 1984 in Orlando.

In the evening we rode the bus to Chaffin's Barn, a dinner theater. The food was very good and lots of it along with an excellent dessert bar. We saw the play "Take My Wife", a pretty good comedy with lots of laughs. We went to bed by midnite.

Thursday August 21

It was pretty foggy in the morning but we could see the planes flying in and out of the airport. We had a nice breakfast at the hotel and Betty went on the bus tour.

They visited The Hermitage, home of Andrew Jackson. Then the Ryman Auditorium which was the home of the Grand Ole Opry from 1943 to 1974 and then on the The Parthenon which is a full scale replica of the original Greek Parthenon. It was built by the City of Nashville and is now an art museum. Everyone on the tour commented on how interesting and worthwhile it was.

The Squadron Dinners that evening were well attended, and the food was very good. Everyone seemed to enjoy themselves and it is always nice to meet and talk to old friends and learn what others have done since 1945.

Friday August 22

We all boarded the busses at 0900 and went to the Opryland Hotel. It is a beautiful place with lots of shops and restaurants. The women did some shopping and after a nice lunch in one of the many restaurants, we returned to the Marriott Hotel on one of the shuttle busses.

In the evening we all went to the Grand Ole Opry and enjoyed a nice Friday evening performance, some of which was broadcast live on Nashville's WLW Radio.

We heard several comments that the Opryland Hotel and the evening performance of the Grand Ole Opry were much better than they expected.

Saturday August 23

After a fast breakfast in the hotel we boarded the bus at 0830 for a tour of the Antebellum Home, Belle Meade. It has an interesting history, it was built in 1853 and survived the Civil War undamaged.

We reboarded the bus and went on to Cheekwood. Cheekwood was built in the early 1920's by the Cheek family. They made their fortune by selling their formula for roasting coffee to the Maxwell House Coffee Company and they still use the same process today.

The Annual Business Meeting was held in the afternoon and was well attended. Ed Chan resigned as Vice President. Everyone thanked him for his valuable contributions to the success of the 461st Bomb Group, especially in locating the addresses of so many members.

Jim Hardy was appointed Vice President. He has always worked hard for the Group and I am sure he will prove to be an excellent choice.

After much discussion, it was determined that the 1998 Reunion will be held in the Boston, Massachusetts area. George Dickie, your Editor of the "Liberaider", has volunteered to make the arrangements. You will be notified of the dates and location in the near future.

The Annual Banquet on Saturday evening was well attended and it was great to get together again with old friends and tell "War Stories", some probably exaggerated a little after all these years. The evening ended with dancing to music of the 40's that was provided by a good local band.

Sunday August 24

We were up early again for a nice Memorial Service led by Chaplain Lieutenant Colonel Larry M. Kirk. We then went to a well-organized breakfast buffet and returned to our rooms to finish packing and check out.

The busses left at 1100 for the cruise on the Cumberland River aboard the General Jackson. It was a real Show Boat, actually propelled by a large stem paddle wheel. The buffet was excellent and the entertainment was very good. The cruise down the Cumberland River all the way to downtown Nashville provided a lot of great scenery most of us had never seen before.

The busses returned to the hotel by 3:00 p.m. where goodbyes were said with lots of the parting words being, "We will see you in Boston next year."