

the HOF CONNECTION newsletter

January 2004

2004 REUNION TO BE HELD IN BILOXI, MS **25 - 29 OCTOBER**

After much debate, the Association Board of Directors voted to move the 2004 Reunion to Biloxi, MS. Association President Jim Patterson inspected the facilities and negotiated a contract with the Imperial Palace Hotel-Casino in Biloxi. The Imperial Palace will provide rooms for \$49 a night (Suites \$79). All rooms have coffeemakers, hairdryers, irons, dataports, and cable TV. The Imperial Palace will also provide a complimentary hospitality suite and banquet facilities free for our activities. Hotel amenities include a full casino, Cinema 6 (six theaters), three fine-dining restaurants, four casual-dining restaurants, three snack areas, Bonkerz Comedy Club, Spa Caribe, several retail shops (clothing, food, sundries, and signature items), Ippys Fun Zone video arcade, and an outdoor swimming pool with seven waterfalls. Room service, valet service, bell service, and free covered and valet parking are also available. The reunion registration fee is expected to be \$78.00 per person. The registration fee will cover the cost of the social/reception buffet, banquet dinner, Auf Wiedersehen Breakfast, dance music, nametags, banquet programs, reunion packages and other miscellaneous expenses. Complete details and registration forms will be mailed in May to members that fill in and return the attached Biloxi Reunion Questionnaire.

Justification for the Change of Venue

The San Antonio Convention & Visitors Bureau ignored the initial (RFP) request for proposals personally submitted by Bennie Hopper. Our second request did show some activity and resulted in a telephone call from a professional organizer but somehow slipped through the cracks at the Convention Bureau without any action. After consultation with Convention Bureau Top Management, action was immediately initiated. We received a call from the person that set on the first two request and suddenly Hotels in the San Antonio area with facilities capable of handling a reunion of 400 plus responded. Few were willing to lower their rates below \$80.00 + 16.75 Tax (The majority were \$99.00 a night + tax and a \$7 to \$12 a night parking fee). The Omni Hotel did offer a rate of 74.95 + 16.75% tax and free parking for the first week in September, which is too hot and, during the hurricane season. After the Association Board voted to move the Hof Reunion to Biloxi, the San Antonio Airport Hilton lowered their rate to \$74.00 + 16.75% tax and offered free parking in attempt to get us back to San Antonio. October is apparently a high demand month for San Antonio. Our Board of Directors fulfilled their obligation to serve the best interest of our entire membership.

EXECUTIVE ADVISORY BOARD – **Tom Bryson**

Viva Las Vegas!

Elvis didn't make this party but people who have seen him lately say he expressed regret.

Tuesday afternoon, at our delicious informal buffet dinner, Traudl Riggins vibrant, resonant and crystalline voice filled the hall with patriotic American and German folk songs, Ralph Glover captivated us with his marvelous rendition of "Lazy Boy", and E.T.Row, Steve Murphrey, Mike Buttell and Tom Mikloiche took us down memory lane with their 5 minute talks. JoAnn Fukumoto gave us a Hula demonstration and invited everyone to join in on the dance floor. We had the time of our lives and without grass skirts. Traudl Riggins led a German sing-along and it was fantastic! She and Jim distributed printed copies of the lyrics so none of us really had to know any of the songs to participate and if we got lost in the German and had to resort to nonsense syllables – no problem! With Traudl's beautiful voice filling the conversion center we all sounded like we knew what we were doing. It was pure fun.

On Wednesday, thanks to the Tour Planner E.T.Row, the Hoover Dam excited and awed everyone by virtue of its sheer mass and sense of engineering achievement, having been built at a time lacking the advanced construction

technology of today. What a contrast to go from there to the Valley of Fire desert – no less inspiring than the dam but engineered by God and nature instead of men and tools. Two great wonders, seen in one day, the back to the conviviality and Gemütlichkeit of the Stardust Hospitality Suite and legendary Las Vegas.

Thursday night we had the pleasure of hearing several comical stories from former “Hofers”. Boeing Engineer, Norman Hines told about the 6915th loaning a heater to the 602nd that ended up burning down Radar Operations, former Commander, Col. John Stevenson told of his experience dealing with the Army, Col. Marion Bacon Oelke, the first female Shift Commander, reminded us ☺ just how masculine that facility was ... Marion was followed Lt. Col. Leon Weston, the commander that closed the Hof Kaserne. Leon and his wife Dottie told of organizing the 1996 Las Vegas reunion that attracted about 43 former Hof Colleagues. Last, but not least, Capt. Sean Cotter, Executive Officer of the US Air Force Thunderbird Acrobatic Flying Team provided a very informative briefing on the Thunderbird mission. Capt. Cotter expressed his astonishment with the Hof Reunion Association and the fact that after 35 years, the Hof Family of more than 300 gathered to renew old acquaintances and create new friendships. We also observed a moving memorial to our fallen comrades, then had music and dancing provided by the “Dummkopfs” – attired in comic Wagnerian motif – they turned out to be a great little band. Helen Toni closed out the evening with her Scottish ballad “Haste Ye Back”. Helen’s heart touching solo is becoming a tradition. The wet bar remained open throughout the evening.

Our own Hospitality Suite operated during most of the reunion and provided a convenient gathering place for everyone to meet and interact with old friends and new acquaintances during their leisure, and leisure was not at a premium, there was enough unplanned time to thoroughly relax and enjoy the week.. If you missed it, you should be kicking yourself and marking your calendar for this year’s event.

So kick yourself, mark the calendar, put some money aside and tell the kids and grandkids you’ll be away for a week come October. We’ll gather on the longest man made beach in the world, the little “Las Vegas of the South”, Biloxi, Mississippi. **See you there!**

EXECUTIVE ADVISOR – **Tom Nickerson**

Monika and I wish to “Thank” our entire “Hof Family” for the support provided during my year as President of this GREAT Association. A special “thank you” to all the Las Vegas Reunion volunteers that worked and served as attendants in the Stardust Hospitality Suite. You did an outstanding job. We personally feel that it is the individual member’s contribution that is making this Association so successful and the reunions so fun. Freddy & Helga Bales, Sid & Gale Futrell, Dean & Shirley Thompson, Don Bodiker, Barbara Chapman, Eddie Crump, Don Riverkamp, Phil & Jo Murray, John & Robyn Dorsch,, Don & Marlene Fields, Carol Barron, John Jack, Don Ridgeway, Jerry & Pat Mangas,, William Patton. Bob & Lilo Sherwood, Tony & Lynn Cameron, John & Carol Scholl, George & Crista Fahrbach, Tom & Denise Bryson, Hanna Bryson. Please extend your fine support to our successor’s, Jim & Eadie Patterson. Monika and I are looking forward to seeing all of you again in October at the Imperial Palace in Biloxi.

TREASURER – **Nathan Sparks**

I would like to thank the attending members of the Hof Reunion in Las Vegas for reelecting me as your treasurer for another year. It has been a great pleasure working with the officers and members of this great organization. The charitable donation of \$1,000.00 was mailed to the Air Force Enlisted Village, Shalimar, FL as voted on by the reunion attendees. The Air Force Enlisted Foundation provides surviving spouses requiring financial assistance a place to live among peers, sharing memories of Air Force life without the stigma normally associated with subsidized housing. We also have received a letter from the Air Force Enlisted Village thanking the Hof Reunion Membership for their donation. CMSAF James C Binnicker’s letter quoted in part, your support to the widows and residents of the Air Force Enlisted Village is vital to our success. When groups like yours generously support them, they know they are still a part of the Air Force Family. The bills relating to Las Vegas Reunion have been paid and our balance as of December 31, 2003 is \$7,121.03. In an effort to reduce mailing cost, we have purchased a Nonprofit Standard Bulk Mail Permit from the United States Post Office. Therefore, the Master Roster will be printed in bulk and mailed to active members in October. The renewal rosters and other communications to members after October will be mailed in

increments of 200 pieces. The annual membership dues are our only source of income and of course the members that volunteer their time. The new fiscal year began October 1, 2003 (FY 04) and if you have not mailed in your renewal check, please do so at your earliest convenience.

PRESIDENT – Jim Patterson

Las Vegas and the excitement of other fabulous reunions are pleasant memories. Now it's time to start planning our route to the beautiful Gulf Coast and Biloxi, Mississippi. I look forward to these reunions like a child looks forward to Christmas. Seeing all of you is just as exciting as opening those imaginary gifts. We hate to admit it, but we are all advancing in age. I'll be 74 by the time I get to Biloxi and I know that sooner or later one of these reunions will be my last. I intend to move that one as far into the future as I possibly can. Our lives are short enough so let's make the best of the time we've got left and try to attend the Hof Reunion every year. We are a dedicated, patriotic group of Veterans who are much better behaved than when we were young GI's (thank God for that). I'm sure those folks on the Gulf Coast are ready for that "Touch of Class" that we always seem to deliver. Edie and I are looking forward to seeing our many established friends, many new friends and anticipate meeting those former Hof Colleagues that will be attending the reunion for the first time.

VICE PRESIDENT – Bruce Orr

The Association Board continues to hear stories of the fun, good times, and even the "luck" some of you had in Las Vegas. Those of us that were able to attend our little shindig had personal memories of Hof bubble back to the surface of our mind. The highlight for me was listening to the personal stories as related by speakers at the Banquet. Marion Oelke's story of being locked in a bathroom brought down the house with howls of laughter. The German music presented by the "Dummkopfs" brought back other happy reminiscences of Hof's annual Volksfest and the good times at the Freiheitshalle.

Although it's many months away, your Board of Directors is already working on the program for our next gala in Biloxi. Many of our Association members attended technical training at Keesler AFB and therefore will definitely want to attend this reunion on the beautiful Gulf Coast. Esther and I are looking forward to seeing many old acquaintances again and making many new friends.

HISTORIAN – Gary Dempsey

Just as in Camelot and Brigadoon, there once was a place and a time in our lives called Hof or Doebraberg, and operational US Military units amid the Bavarian hills and villages. We came, performed our jobs and then departed. Some brought home a pretty Frauelein and others many wonderful memories.

Our Association is about the people that were assigned to these US Military units and the many German friends we left behind. My goal is to initiate an official "Memories of Hof" project utilizing short stories, tales, and anecdotes that you, the membership, can supply. I was assigned to the 6915th from 1960 to 1963, and as I announced at the Las Vegas Reunion, I have volunteered to be the Association Historian and memory miser.

I have a web site www.thedempseyarchives.com/msgboard.mv with a message board that will serve as my "scrap book" or memory album. I'd appreciate the support of every person listed on the Master Hof Roster that has an Internet server. Please place your personal tales and stories in my scrapbook. You are not limited to the number of stories or tales that you provide and they do not have to be lengthy. Just provide some of your memories. Don't worry about grammar or spelling. For you that don't have an Internet server, mail your notes, letters and documents to: Garrett Dempsey, 1260 1st 52nd Street, Whitestone, NY 11357-1838.

If you have newspaper clippings or other “first-person” sources of information, I’d appreciate having a copy of those too. Eventually, if we get enough material together, we’d like to actually publish a little memorial book about our time in our version of an enchanted place that once was important to all of us and now lives on in “Memories of Hof”.

NOTE

If you have an Internet provider and are not receiving the Association weekly email Update, we probably don’t have your current email address. Please contact <HofReunion@aol.com> to see what the problem may be. Please provide your name and correct email address. Your attention to this matter will keep you current on Association activities.

Las Vegas Nevada Reunion Participants

Bob Alekson, Jane Arthur, Joe & Jean Ameling, Arnold & Rose Angel, Mike & Ursula Assenmacher, Eric Bergstrom, Freddy & Helga Bales, Carole & Debra Barron, Jim & Sue Beard, Ron Becker, Gabi & Rose Becker, Tony Becker, Lupe Guzman, James & Gertrude Berry, Gisela Blankenship, Anna Flamos, Don Bodiker, Tom & Denise Bryson, Hanna Bryson, Mike & Barbara Jean Buttell, Tony & Lynn Cameron, Jay C & Mary Roth Campbell, Gary & Sandra Cherpes, Barbara Chapman, Doug & Anneliese Chamberlain, Bonnie Charles, Warren Fortezzo, Don Chesney & Karin Baumgartner, Jack & Sue Coker, Bill & Marcia Combs, Bob & Carol Conrad, George & Irmgard Coursey, Charles Cromer & Jean Foster, Eddie Crump, Don & Ursula Daniels, Peter & Carmen Day, Gary & Kay Dempsey, Greg Dempsey, Jim & Elizabeth Derby, Angela Derby, Jonathan Tanksley, Pat & Kathy DiCintio, Tony & Joan Donofrio, John & Robyn Dorsch, Darrell Dotson, David & Brigitte Durbin, Joe Eberhardt, John & Mindy Elledge, Tom Emerson, Archie & Brenda Emery, Daniel & Dee Engelken, George & Christa Fahrback, Bob Butler & Elvira Greaves, Tom & JoAnn Stanley, Don & Toot Fields, Ken & Loyen Fielder, John & Bertha Fontes, Mario & Renate Forgione, Gene & Pat Frank, Francis & JoAnn Fukumoto, Sidney & Gayle Futrell, Bruce & Margaret Gallagher, Walt Galvin, Judy Gants, Paul Genung, Milton & Virginia Gibbs, Ralph & Joan Glover, Deborah Grierson, Marty & Alice Habecker, Warren & Elaine Halvorson, Melvin & Ilse Hamill, Smiley & Elaine Hansberger, Jim Haney, Stan & Pat Heath, Jim & Delia Helfer, Norman & Ursula Hines, Delbert Henry, Robert & Hanna Hoerath, Lorilee Hoxie, Dan & Darlene Holden, Paul Holmgren, Tom & Jan Hughes, Ned & Barbara Imboden, John Jack, John & Carole Jacob, Jimmy Kay, Ken & Gay Kielbania, Greg & Sandy Krcma, Ivan & Jane Kukafka, Bob & Ruth Livesey, Bill Main & June Marshall, Jerry & Pat Mangas, Erminio & Corrine Martinez, Bob & Pauline McAuliffe, Charles & Renate Mattice, Michael & Melissa McAuliffe, Jim & Mary McKinney, Jeanie Meredith, Jerry & Hilde Middendorf, Thomas & Inga Mikloiche, John & Sissy Mittermeier, Bob & Barb & Pat Mollahan, Nancy Morgan, Dara Lynn Morgan, Diane Reitmeyer, Paul & Betty Morgan, Doris Moss, Russel Moyer, Steve & Donna Murphrey, Phil & Jo Murray, Dick Nelson, Tom & Monika Nickerson, Harry Nowinski, Roy Benifield, Richard & Evi Obidinski, Heidi Pouch, Roger & Marion Bacon Oelke, Bruce & Esther Orr, John & Francis Orr, Ets & Sally Ouchida, John & Aggie Pace, Chuck & June Parnell, Bill & Gale Partrich, Jim & Eadie Patterson, William PattonEldon(Pete) & Margit Payne, Morris & Karen Petty, Jerry & Ginnie Piehl, Phyllis McKeag Phipps, Larry & Heidimarie Prince, Sharon Combs, Henry & Eleanor Quarterman, Dean & Suzanne Reed, Howard & Patti Resnick, Don Ridgeway, Jack & Pat Rief, Jim & Traudl Riggin, Don Riverkamp & Jeri Heinzelman, Robby & Katrina Roberson, Louis Rocha & Fern Bordlemay, Robert & Mary Rodamer, Don & Eva-Maria Ross, Eulis & Vera Row, CA Russell, Charles & Hannelore Sausedo, Dan & Carol Scanny, Shiela Scanny, Garry & Ann Schilling, Harvey Schmit, Brent Scott, John & Carol Scholl, Ramon & Frieda Schuety, Gordon & Margaret Schultz, Jim & Helga Shepp, Bob & Lilo Sherwood, Jack Sinagra, Jim & Peggy Slothower, John & Eva-Maria Slutz, Nathan & Ute Sparks, Raymod Startz, Claude & Myrtle Spicer, Barry & Sue Springsteen, Jay D Steger, John & Millie Stevenson, Dean & Shirley Thompson, Ray & Jo Thompson, Bill & Helen Toni, Bob & Maggie Trojanowski, Jerry & Carole Vogel, Bill & Edith Ward, Art & Karin Weatherwalks, Dave Weaver, Leon & Dottie Weston, Gene Wetzel, Helen Wicker, John Wible & Jeanette Brumfiel, John & Donna Wild, Bob & Lorene Wilson, Chuck & Monika Wilson, Jan Wilson, Roger & Sharon Wilson, Dave Wymard, Rip & Jeannie Yarnall, Lorrayne & Shawn Zobrak, **GUESTS:** Viktor & Elsbeth Andonov, Sean & Mimi Cotter

Nellis AFB Honor Guard: SrA Antonia Williams, Amn Mariano Padilla, Alc Cotton Orr, SrA Souzan Aziz

2nd VICE PRESIDENT – Richard Obidinski

John & Eva Maria Slutz were the first place winner of the Association Las Vegas lottery. John & Eva Maria walked away with \$400.00 cash. Congratulations!

The Memorial Service planned by Francis and JoAnn Fukumoto was touching and demonstrated appropriate recognition and respect for colleagues listed on the "Final Flyby" (Deceased). In performing the Memorial Service, Francis was assisted by Mike Assenmacher, Tom Bryson, Gary Cherpes, Tom Mikloiche, John Pace, Jim Patterson, Dean Reed and Brent Scott. At appropriate intervals during the service, an Assistant would step to the microphone and read a list of names of those being saluted. The audience was requested to stand if they recognized the name of a fallen comrade. As I stood to honor those whose names I knew, I noticed that many stood a lot indicating they had many former friends on the list. It was a heartwarming ceremony in recognition of those that could be present in spirit only. Our name will be on that "Final Flyby" list someday but until that day comes, I will be thankful for the time we have all spent together. Evie and I are looking forward to seeing a greater turnout in Biloxi,

3rd V. PRESIDENT - **Jim Riggin**

The Obidinski's, Fukumoto's and Traudl and I, want Las Vegas Reunion attendee's to know we enjoyed planning and presenting the entertainment for the Tuesday afternoon reception/social. Everybody, without exception, appeared to have a great time. It's a wonderful feeling to see 300 plus people, singing, dancing, smiling, and doing the Hula. The gathering was better than the wildest New Year celebration we have ever attended. We have received nothing but positive feedback so assume you, the membership, are looking for a repeat performance in Biloxi. A repeat performance will give all the folks that missed the fun in Las Vegas an opportunity to become a merry maker in Biloxi.

We have been asked, and have accepted the honor, to plan the social/reception entertainment in 2004. We know there is a lot of talent in this Association because we heard and saw many of you perform in Hof. When filling out the Biloxi Reunion Questionnaire (part of this news-letter) we urge you to volunteer your talent. We have a little more time to put the Biloxi entertainment program together but we need your inputs now. The "Oktoberfest Theme" went over well in Las Vegas and there is a possibility of having a German Band play for us in Biloxi. IF you plan to attend the Biloxi Reunion, send in your special song request for Tuesday, October 26 now. <jmriggin@yahoo.com> We'll be happy to accommodate you if we can.

MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN - **C.A.Russell**

We thank all of you that took the time and effort to submit copies of your old paperwork (orders), and encourage those of you who haven't, to do so. I talk to people all the time who know the whereabouts of fellow Hof vets, but have never provided the information to us so they can be included on the roster. You may feel the information you have about a former Hof Colleague is insignificant, but combined with other material we may have, could be combined to locate another Hofer. Also, when you communicate with any of your Hof friends, ask if they have sent in their membership fee. That is our absolute only source of revenue, which is used to cover administrative and communications costs. We're looking forward to meeting you all on the Gulf Shores of the Magnolia State and home of Jefferson Davis, Biloxi, Mississippi.

Mail Old Hof Orders to: C.A. Russell, 1206 Accord Rd, Dublin, GA 31021-0715.

Email: russca@bellsouth.net

SERGEANT OF ARMS - **Bob Alekson**

What a pleasant surprise we had from all of the participants of our Las Vegas Reunion. We thought that there would be a few problems with people failing to wear their nametags or forgetting their tickets. Guess what! Everyone was in compliance with the request to wear their nametags and support the reunion planners. We thank all of you for your cooperation. The word must have got out to the few former Hofer's that were in Las Vegas but were not registered for the reunion. Even they honored protocol and complied with the rules by not attempting to crash planned activities. Our Keynote Speaker, Captain Sean Cotter of the US Air Force Thunderbirds, was right on when he commented that

he was absolutely amazed at our closeness as a "family" after 40 plus years. It was a pleasure to help in assuring that our Las Vegas Reunion was a success. I personally hope to see many more former Hof Colleagues in Biloxi. I feel blessed with all the new friends that I have made but know there are many of you out there that I haven't had the pleasure of meeting. Come smell the roses and experience the joy of living.

Testimonial - **Jim Slothower**

It has been a long time since I left Hof in the summer of 1967. A lot has changed since then for all of us. Careers, marriages, children, and grandchildren are some of the highlights many of us have shared. We all have much to be thankful for. The long list of our comrades who have joined the final fly by list that was read from the stage in Las Vegas last month gives us all cause to ruminate on those special things in life we really value. One thing of particular value to me was the opportunity to meet with old friends I had not seen for over 35 years. For those of us who served in the 6915th on Baker Trick from 1963-1968 who attended the reunion in Las Vegas this year, it was a particularly grand time. The opportunity to chat, after so many years, with Tony and Lynn Cameron, a couple who contributed so much to my memorable experiences in Hof, and to share a couple of meals with Gene Frank, Pat DeCintio and Gordon Schultz and their lovely spouses was worth the price of admission alone. It was nice to see that friendships made so many years ago still endure. I am thankful for all of the work done by the organizers of the Las Vegas reunion which made the event so successful and I am hopeful that more old friendships will be resurrected when we meet again next year in Biloxi. Jim N. Slothower, Slothower & Petersen, P.C. Attorneys at Law
205 NW Franklin Ave. Bend, OR 97701 (541) 389-7001

TESTIMONIAL – **Will Patton**

Make plans now to attend the 2004 Hof Reunion in Biloxi! I went to my first reunion in Las Vegas in October 2003 to see old friends that I had not seen in 35 years. You may or may not recognize them at first, because some have no hair, some have hair of a different color, and some are bigger. But the voices sound the same; they still smile, and they laugh about the times we spent in Hof. They will tell stories you hadn't thought about in years. I saw and talked with guys and their wives from my time in Hof (November 1964 to February 1968 at the 6915th Scty Gp); Thomas Bryson, Ken and Gay Kielbania, Harvey Schmidt, Morris and Karen Petty, Chuck and June Parnell (fellow Okies), Jack Sinagra, Don Ridgeway, Ken Fielder, Joe Eberhardt, Charles Cromer, and more. I met Mike Becker's widow Gabriella, Tom Bryson's wife Denise and daughter Hanna. (I have been sending Hanna travel postcards for years and finally got to meet her.)

With over 300 people at the Reunion, you are bound to find someone that you know. You will meet a lot of new friends who shared life in Hof at different times and even at the same time but were in different units or schedules. Take advantage of this opportunity to renew old friendships and make new ones!

GLOSSARY OF HOFER GI SPEAK TERMS - **Jerry Mangas**

I have started to put together a Glossary of Terms for that day in the distant future when there is no longer anybody fluent in Hofer GI speak to translate. I have 4 single spaced pages down already, but I must admit it is a bit biased, mostly ops centered, simply because there is where I did my time.

I need some input from the 606 guys and the base Day-ladies. So far this whole thing is pretty much OPS centered and 203 based and there have gotta be terms that were particular to the base people or Doebra that I haven't heard or am not familiar with.

Nothing classified (or once was) and nothing scatological unless it is very funny. Funny makes it OK. Your grandkids may wanna read this someday to their grandkids ... "Here's what Great Great Grampie did during the 50 year War, Jimmy!". "He spoke this here funny language then but Gramma says after he came home he was OK until he went to that damn Reunion!. It was downhill from there!"

If you would send along just the terms, and explanations if they are really obtuse (or funny), I will fit them into this thing for posterity and beyond. It up to ten pages or so and I will send it out for more additions to a wider group of people. < jmangas@fast.net >

SECRETARY - **Chuck Wilson**

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

October 6, 2003

M I N U T E S

General Membership Meeting was called to order at 1700 hours by President Tom Nickerson who led the membership in the Pledge Allegiance.

Secretary Chuck Wilson read the September 17, 2002 minutes. Tony Donofrio made a motion that the minutes be accepted as read. Nate Sparks seconded the motion. Membership Approved.

Nate Sparks gave the Treasures Report and stated the Association books were available and open for inspection by any member with a desire to review them. Dan Scanny made the motion that the treasures report be accepted as read. Bob Alekson seconded. Membership Approved

OLD BUSINESS:

Tom Nickerson presented a suggestion to change the format for the "Master Hof Roster." The suggested change had been submitted by a member in good standing but not present due to medical problems. After a short discussion, the issue was put to a vote. The membership voted to continue using the present Master Hof Roster format.

Tom Nickerson introduced a proposed change to the Association Constitution and By- Laws that had been published in the July, 2003, Hof Connection Newsletter. The change would grant any widow or widower, who's spouse name appears on the "Final Flyby List", membership in the Association with all the privileges of a regular member except the right to pay dues or to hold office. After a discussion period, A motion was made by Bob Alekson to accept the change as read. Seconded by Jim Riggin. Membership=Yea Nea=0

The 2004 Reunion Site selection ballots were presented by Chuck Wilson. Branson, MO received the greatest number of votes (53) but Jim Beard, the Branson representative said it would be impossible for him to organize the 2004 Reunion and suggested the membership vote on Biloxi (48) or San Antonio (47). Orlando, FL had received to few votes (27) to even be considered. After a presentation for Biloxi by Toot Fields and presentation on behalf of San Antonio (Bennie Hopper-San Antonio Rep was recovering from C Surgery) by Chuck Wilson, a vote was taken. San Antonio was selected by 4 votes.

NEW BUSINESS;

Chuck Wilson made a motion that a \$1000.00 donation be made to the Air Force Enlisted Village, Schalamar, FL. Motion was seconded by Bruce Orr. The Motioned Carried.

Tom Nickerson reviewed the Constitution and By-laws with the membership and then opened the floor for nomination for 3rd Vice President. Dick Obidinski nominated Jim Riggin, Seconded by Don Chesney. Dick Obidinski made a motion that nominations be closed, seconded by Tony Donofrio. Yea= Nea=0

Jim Patterson nominated Chuck Wilson for Secretary, seconded by Dan Scanny. Bruce Orr made a motion that nominations be closed, seconded by E. T. Row. Membership=Yea= Nea=0

Tom Bryson nominated Nathan Sparks for Treasurer, seconded by Don Chesney. Dan Scanny made a motion that nominations be closed, seconded by Tony Donofrio. Membership=Yea Nea=0

Chuck Wilson nominated CA Russell for Membership Chairman, seconded by Dick Obidinski. Jim Riggin made a motion that nominstions be closed, seconded by Jerry Mangas. Membership = Yea Nea=0

Tom Nickerson introduced Incoming President Jim Patterson. Jim Patterson gave his acceptance speech and entertained a motion to close the meeting.

Bob Alekson made a motion that the 2003 General Membership Meeting be closed, quickly seconded by Tony Donofrio and approved by the membership.

HOF KASERNE - Jerry & Pat Mangas

Picture is from a book re: Hüttner that I am just starting to translate ... These are the new barracks in 1936. There were initially four "Reserve" or "replenishment/replacement" companies here (the 15, 16, 17 and 18'th, the last as a Machine Gun Company) stationed at the Kaserne when it was first built in 1935, (as part of?) the Replacement Battalion, II./of the 42'nd Infantry Regiment (formerly IR Bayreuth). These were older men from Oberfranken, past draft age but who were still able to serve and were put thru a 8 week (later a quarter year) training course. the II signifies "Adjutant". The Adjutant's section was generally in the personnel group of a (*Regiment*) or *Division* HQ. ,*The "II" took care of all matters dealing with replacements, personnel More to follow.matters of officers such as promotions, decorations, punishments, etc, as well as the rosters, war rolls, and lists of losses for a *Regiment* or *Division*." (It was) complete with Headquarters. The book also states that Stadt Hof had never before 1936 been considered for a Garrison "because no soldier could tolerate the rough climate (read ... rotten weather!) of a 'Bavarian Siberia' ", so there was in fact some basis for our term of endearment for Hof as "Little Siberia"!

Got the book (by Rosenwald, "Biography of a Franken-Bavarian Soldier") from the Library of Congress, and was not allowed to take it out of the library to translate it. In fact I waited over a month for it. Not sure why I couldn't take it home but that was stamped on the cover and the jacket liner was imprinted all over with Library of Congress, and they were listed as the publisher.



The Hof Reunion Association
(A non-profit organization)
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Hof Reunion Association Officers and Staff

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Tom Nickerson

Executive Board:

President	Jim Patterson
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2ndV.P.	Dick Obidinski
3rdV.P.	Jim Riffin
Treasurer	Nathan Sparks
Secretary	Chuck Wilson
Membership Chairman	C A Russell

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