

the Hof Connection newsletter

July 2015

HRA REUNION



TRAVERSE CITY – 27 September – 3 October, 2015

It's getting close, time to review your reservations for our Traverse City reunion, or if you're sitting on the fence and haven't made them yet, there's still time to get your reservations going; but you can't dilly-dally, the cut-off date for signups without penalty is 26 August, and this date is closer than it appears.

Traverse City is a gem on the northeast coast of Lake Michigan. It's a year-round tourist and recreation destination, and our reunion is scheduled for a great time of the year, 27 September through 3 October. The leaves will be changing colors and the weather is ideal – daytime highs in the 70's with evenings a little cooler, so bring a sweater or light jacket. You will NOT need any snow shoes or mukluks, but a flask could be handy.

And it's not just the locals that are bragging about Traverse City. Here's what others are saying:

Top 10 Summer Trips for 2012 / National Geographic

The Most Beautiful Place in America: Sleeping Bear Dunes / Good Morning America Viewers

Top 5 Foodie Town in America / Bon Appetit

Top 10 Place to Enjoy Local Wines / USA Today

Top 3 Emerging Beer Towns in the US / Draft Magazine

Top 5 Food Towns in the Midwest / Midwest Living

Top 10 Charming Small Towns / TripAdvisor.com

Traverse City's Cherry Capital Airport is a full-service commercial airport offering major airline service to 300 domestic and international destinations. Service is provided by American Airlines, United Express and Delta Airlines and is offered through hubs in Detroit, Minneapolis and Chicago, as well as seasonal, direct service to New York, Atlanta and Denver.



We will be staying at the Great Wolf Lodge, Traverse City – it's an all-suites hotel with in-room refrigerator and microwave. The hotel is fully ADA-compliant and has a number of rooms designated for the handicapped. Our rooms will be located near the Hospitality Room and Meeting Rooms. The Great Wolf Lodge offers two full-service restaurants, an indoor water park, Spa by Aveda, and many other amenities. As usual, members need to make their own reservations. Make sure you mention any special needs that should be met. The reservations phone number is: 866 962 9653 and be sure to tell them the reservation code: "1509HOF" in order to receive the Hof Reunion Association room rate.

Great Wolf Lodge
3575 N. US 31 South
Traverse City, MI 49684
Web Site: www.greatwolf.com

As you complete the registration form, please note any special dietary restrictions and/or allergies that you may have, so that we can let the hotel staff know.

These are the two tours that have been planned.

Tour #1 will be Tuesday, 29 September - a bus tour of the Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore. The visit to the Sleeping Bear Dunes begins at the Philip A. Hart Visitor Center, which features a natural history museum and a slide presentation that gives a good orientation of the park. Then it's on to Pierce Stocking Scenic Drive, which is a seven-mile route featuring stunning panoramas of the dunes, Lake Michigan and Glen Lake. Interpreters from the Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore lead tours of the restored "ghost port" of Glen Haven on the shore of Sleeping Bear Bay. The site includes a restored lifesaving station, a

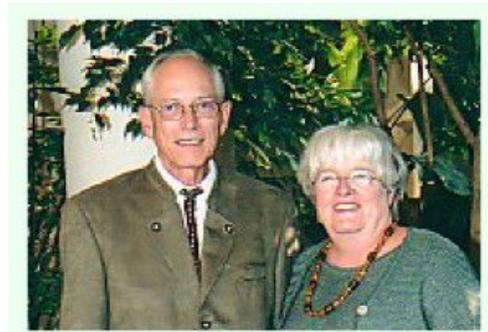
maritime museum, cannery, blacksmith shop, general store, and an inn scheduled for restoration.

Tour #2 will be Wednesday, 30 September. It begins at the Village at Grand Traverse Commons, formerly the Traverse City State Hospital which was established in the early 1900's. The 30-minute guided bus tour is where we will enjoy an information-packed ride through the history, architecture and beauty of the Village campus. Some of the buildings have been converted to shops and restaurants. From here we travel to the Old Mission Peninsula and the Mission Point Lighthouse. The lighthouse, built in 1870, is open for self-guided tours, browsing the gift shop, or a friendly hello to the Lighthouse Keepers. We are then off to the Chateau Chantal winery for tasting (6 wines of your choice) and fantastic, breathtaking views of East and West Grand Traverse Bays. At this point, we may have to split the group depending on how many people are on the tour. We will take a break for lunch at one of the fine restaurants located on the peninsula. Cost of lunch is not included in the tour price. The last stop will be at the Brys Estate Vineyard and Winery for a tour and wine tasting which includes a large souvenir wine glass and tasting of 5 wines.

There will be a free day on Thursday for you to explore the Traverse City area itself. You can visit the shops downtown, you can go charter fishing for the "big one" on the "big lake"; play golf; re-visit one (or all) of the wineries; plan a trip to historic Mackinac Island; or just relax around the hotel. And for the gamblers in the crowd, there are two casinos nearby – Turtle Creek and Leelanau Sands. Check with the hotel for addresses or shuttle information.

There will be a full schedule of events posted in the hospitality room with directions of where to go an who to see.

Karin and I want to welcome all of you to my home state and beautiful and amazing Traverse City.



We hope to see all of you there.

Dave Natalie
President

2015 HRA REUNION TENTATIVE SCHEDULE OF EVENTS SEPTEMBER 27 TO OCTOBER 3, 2015

Sunday Sep 27	13:00 – 16:00 16:30 – 18:00	HRA Executive Board set-up registration & hospitality room HRA Executive Board meeting
Monday Sep 28	9:00 – 15:30 9:00 – 15:00 16:00 – 18:00	Hospitality room open HRA registration HRA General Membership meeting
Tuesday Sep 29	9:00 – 12:00 8:00 – 12:00 12:30 – 18:00 18:00 – 21:00	Hospitality room open Tour #1 – Sleeping Bear Dunes Luncheon Buffet program Hospitality room open
Wednesday Sep 30	8:00 – 17:00 18:00 - ?? 9:00 – 21:00	Tour #2 – Village at Grand Traverse Commons and winery tours Group dinners Hospitality room open
Thursday Oct 1	9:00 – 17:00 8:00 – 21:00 14:30 – 16:00	Free day to relax, shop, take fishing charter, visit Traverse City area or other locations Hospitality room open Frauen Kaffee Klatsch
Friday Oct 2	9:00 – 16:00 17:30 – 23:00	Hospitality room open Friday Night Banquet program
Saturday Oct 3	8:00 – 12:00	Hospitality room open - Aufwiedersehen Coffee and Goodbyes

JIM RIGGIN – Vice President

Return to Hof in 2016



We are going back to Hof, this will be our forth time as the Hof Reunion Association. Our first reunion in Hof was in 2002, then we were back in 2006, and were supposed to go back in 2010 but elected to skip that year due to the exchange rate and the international financial problems, so we delayed the reunion until 2012. It will be four years in 2016 and this could

very well be our last reunion as an organization. If you have looked in a mirror lately, you might have noticed that we are aging.

Robert and Hanna Hoerath checked with the Quality Hotel to see what would be the best week for us. Some folks would like to go during the summer for Volksfest, but this is not a good time for us to get good rates at the Hotel. The best week for us is 4 September through 10 September; we can have 50 rooms that week for 70 € per room and that includes Breakfast. Later in the month, we get fewer rooms and the rate is 80 € per night. Therefore the Reunion for Hof will be 4 September to 10 September 2016.

We are still looking at tours; Robert and Hanna are working on these; and, if you have made any or all of

the Reunions in Hof, you know they will come up with some very good tours. As soon as we have the tours nailed down, we will announce them in the weekly update, and the whole schedule will be published in the January Newsletter.

Make plans to go back to Hof in September 2016. All of our reunions in Hof rank at the top of our annual reunions. If the exchange rate holds and the value of the dollar stays high, the cost of the hotel room is approximately \$75.00 per day, and that includes a fantastic breakfast. See you in Traverse City, MI this year and in Hof next year.

WALT MURCH – 2nd VP



Two items are in planning for the General Membership Meeting in Traverse City.

First is the election of the HRA Executive Board Members for 2016. It is time to prepare a slate of nominees for the membership's consideration.

Per the HRA Constitution/Bylaws: President Dave Natalie will enter the Executive Advisor position, 1st VP Jim Riggan will move up to President, and 2nd VP Walt Murch will move up to 1st VP.

All other board member positions (2nd Vice President, Adjutant, Secretary, Treasurer, Membership Chairman, Webmaster, Newsletter Editor, German Affairs Representative) need nominations, and the elections will take place during the general membership meeting in Travers City. The board offers nominations for each office and further nominations can be made from the floor at the membership meeting.

As Nominating Committee Chairman, any and all interested members may make their nominations for the 2016 Executive Board known to me, no later than 31 July, at <murchw@aol.com> or via phone at 714 893 7544 at your earliest convenience. You can volunteer yourself, or nominate someone else that is a member in good standing. Now is the time to step up to the plate, and keep our Hof Reunion Association the #1 in military reunion associations. Thanks!

Second is the nominations of sites for the 2017 Reunion. The reunion committee, which could still use volunteers, has considered a couple of possible locations, so far San Diego, CA and Albuquerque, NM were suggested. We need more site recommendations with preliminary assessments of hotel availability and local attractions. Please participate in the site nominations by email to <murchw@aol.com> or by phone to 714 893 7544, again, no later than 31 July. The ballot for membership selection of the 2017 site will be mailed out with the January 2016 newsletter, and the results announced in the first quarter of 2016.

DON RIVERKAMP - HRA Secretary



I would again like to thank each and every one of our HRA Members and spouses for keeping me informed whenever there was a change of address, phone number, email address, and/or sending me information, photos and stories to share with our members in the Hof Weekly Updates. You have done a great job keeping me informed of any changes to your data for the HRA Master Roster and Hof Weekly Update.

Along with the mailing of the Hof Connection Newsletters in January and July, I email around 390 Hof Weekly Updates to our current active members with Internet Service. Having the proper email addresses enables the Hof Reunion Association to keep our members/spouses informed on a timely basis with information. I have been emailing the weekly update to groups of around 30-35 every couple of hours on Mondays in order that the internet provider does not think I am a Spammer.

We mail the Hof Connection Newsletters First Class Mail, and that has greatly improved the delivery to our members in a more timely fashion, plus the newsletters get forwarded when addresses change. Please keep up the excellent notifications when moving, changing for summer/winter home addresses, and email address changes. I would also like to encourage all members and spouses that wish to share stories with our members to please continue to email them to me. THANKS for making my secretarial job a little easier, and the Hof Reunion Association the best military association in existence.

Also, I would like to mention the HRA online electronic master roster. Our HRA Master Roster is updated weekly on Sunday. For those renewing yearly, I email you a copy during the week following your membership renewal form reaching the adjutant's office in Dover, Delaware. However, some people renew for future years and they might be overlooked as I don't get the normal renewal notification. So, for those that are overlooked, or even if you feel like you need an updated roster, all you have to do is email me, and I will email it to you immediately.

THANKS FOR ALL THE MEMORIES

In October 2004, Ken Putman nominated me for 2nd Vice President in Biloxi, Mississippi. I accepted, and was elected by the members in attendance at the reunion at the Imperial Palace. Since that day, I have been a member of the Executive Board of the Hof Reunion Association serving as 2nd VP, 1st VP, President, Executive Board Advisor, and Secretary (11 years in October 2015).

After much thought and discussion, I have decided to step aside from the Executive Board after the Traverse City Reunion, and let another fellow Hofer enjoy the job. I love the Hof Reunion Association and have had a wonderful and fantastic time helping with the reunions, association constitution/bylaws, board decisions, and putting the news and information out to our fellow members and Hofers. I would like to thank one and all that have assisted in making our Hof Reunion Association the best military reunion association in the world. I will continue to make the yearly reunions when possible, and assist any member or fellow Hofer that has a question and/or concerns about the association.

THANKS AGAIN AND GOD BLESS YOU ALL!!

Sincerely, Don Riverkamp, 6915th Sec. Gp., Hof '65-68, Austin, Texas

MEL HAMILL - Adjutant



Hello from Ilse and Mel Hamill.

Early in 2003, an old friend called, his name, John Jack. John was my best man when Ilse and I were married in Hof, in 1968. John had been contacted by the Hof Reunion Association. He became a member and was provided with an HRA roster. John was interested in making contact with people who worked in the Heating Shop at Kingsley Kaserne. While going through the roster, John located my information and contacted me. At that time I was not a member, but soon after, became one.

The first reunion Ilse and I attended was 2003, in Las Vegas. Jim Derby was a close friend. He and I were stationed in Hof and Jim was the Godparent of my younger son, Michael. I was Jim's best man at his wedding. Ilse and I spent a couple days with Jim and Elisabeth, and rode with them to the 2003 Reunion in Las Vegas. The reunion was memorable. Although I knew some of the attendees; John Jack, and Ned and Barbara Imboden, I did not know what to expect. Ned, Derby, and I were roommates in Hof. I also knew Jerry and Hilde Middendorf; Ilse had been contacted by a friend from Hof, Elizabeth Seigfried. Elisabeth is the aunt of Hilde and has attended reunions in the states and Germany. She put us in touch with Hilde and Jerry. We live 85 miles apart and we have become close friends. I did not attend the 2004 reunion in Biloxi, Mississippi. My thoughts were "been there, done that," one of my biggest mistakes and one I regret. We have attended all reunions since.

In 2009 I was contacted by the Hof Reunion Association Executive Board and asked to run for the office of Treasurer taking over from Nate Sparks. Nate had been the only Treasurer of the HRA, 7 years. My first article in the Hof Connection Newsletter was a tribute to Nate and Ute, two of the best people put on this earth. My term as Treasurer took an unexpected turn. Joe Kessler, Adjutant, had battled cancer and it was thought to have been in complete remission in 2009. It returned and took another of God's blessed. I volunteered to take on both duties of Treasurer and Adjutant. At the 2010 reunion I was elected Adjutant, the position I hold today.

I have written many articles for the Hof Connection Newsletter. July 2010 I wrote an article about the Air Force Enlisted Village. The HRA has made a donation to the AFEV every year since 2004. The Village's primary mission is to offer housing and financial assistance to surviving spouses of enlisted Air Force members. I wrote an article titled "Hof in the Federal Republic of Germany." Hof is different than any other city in Germany. It is both a district and a city. Another article I wrote, "The Start of the Hof Reunion Association." The HRA history had been written and published before. It explained the motivation for the beginning of the HRA "To welcome to the United States a group of visiting Hofers that had worked with the United States Air Force in Germany." It gave meaning to

the word "Hofer." New Membership forms and Registration forms were developed in 2012. The membership form was streamlined, repeat data was no longer required and a member can pay dues in advance eliminating the need to renew every year. I collected documented history of the HRA. Our members were most helpful. I was able to find and collected all the published Hof Connection Newsletters and a copy of all the published HRA Constitution and By Laws. An article I enjoyed writing was "The German Deutsche Mark." It brought back memories. There was a tradition with a one Pfenning coin some may remember. If a one Pfenning coin was placed on a table all at the table had to produce a one Pfenning coin or buy a round. Another article was "Hof Landmarks". There are many Landmarks in Hof, I covered a few; Alter Bahnhof, Hauptbahnhof, Lorenzkirche, Michaeliskirche, Marienkirche, Rathaus and Theresienstein. In 2014 I addressed the spousal voting rights and spousal eligibility to hold HRA office. It generated discussion and I feel more is needed. For all Hof Connection Newsletters in their entirety, HRA History, list of present and past Board Members and Hof Connection Updates go to : <<http://hofgermany.com/aboutus.html>>.

I am proud to have been your Adjutant; it makes me stand a little taller and straighter. I am part of something special, something much larger than I or any one person, and I appreciate what a privilege it is to have taken this journey with you. I compare the journey traveled since 2009 as the streets traveled in life. The streets are interconnected by the people of the Hof Reunion Association. Along the way I made many friends which would not have been possible were it not for the daily actions I performed for the HRA. This gain is my cherished and most valued reward, your Friendship.

The Hof Reunion Association remembers CMSAF Binnicker. The HRA has made donations to the Air Force Enlisted Village every year since 2004 and received a personal thank you note from Chief Binnicker. Chief Binnicker, accompanied by his wife Jan, was our guest speaker for the 2004 Biloxi Reunion. He explained the history and the workings of the AFEV and how they are helping hundreds of widows that would otherwise be in difficult situations. Much of the good will was personally established by Chief Binnicker, and we were deeply saddened to hear of his passing. Here is a bit of his history.



Former Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force James Binnicker, who was the Air Force's top enlisted man from 1986 to 1990, passed away in Calhoun, Georgia, on Saturday, March 21, 2015 the Air Force said. He was 76. Chief Binnicker, a Vietnam veteran, served for 33 years before retiring in 1990.

He had a considerable effect on the lives and careers of enlisted airmen that is still felt today. As the ninth CMSAF, Binnicker oversaw the Air Force's transition from the old Airman Performance Report to the new Enlisted Performance Report system of evaluating enlisted airmen, and the service's performance feedback system. The Air Force said Binnicker also pushed the service to admit master sergeants to the Senior Non-Commissioned Officer Academy, and to increase

opportunities for women and minorities. "He was a leader in every room he entered," current CMSAF James Cody said in a release Saturday. "That was the case during his time in uniform and well after he retired. We often speak of legends, those airmen who have gone before us and built the platforms from which we stand and fight today. Chief Binnicker is a legend among those legends. His impact on our Air Force is everlasting and we will truly miss his leadership, counsel and friendship."

Chief Binnicker was born in Orangeburg, South Carolina, July 23, 1938, and joined the Civil Air Patrol his freshman year in high school. He long dreamed of becoming an Air Force pilot, the Air Force said, but his hopes were dashed when doctors discovered high-frequency hearing loss in his right ear. Instead, he enlisted in the Air Force in August 1957 and entered the personal equipment career field, which was later renamed life support. He worked on the flight line with B-52s and KC-135s, the Air Force said. He cross-trained into air operations and by 1964, he was planning flights for missions to Vietnam. He deployed to Vietnam, and served in the 22nd Tactical Air Support Squadron in 1968 and 1969. Binnicker later served as the senior enlisted adviser for the 4th Tactical Wing, the 12th Air Force, and Pacific Air Forces and Tactical Air Command. When President Carter convened the President's Commission on Military Compensation in 1977, Chief Binnicker was originally the sole enlisted member on the panel. But he successfully pushed the commission to later add enlisted representatives from other services. After retiring, the Air Force said Chief Binnicker traveled around the world speaking with airmen at professional military education courses, as well as other events. He was chosen to be CEO and president of the Air Force Enlisted Village in Shalimar, Florida, in 2000, and led the community of 400 residents for the next 15 years. He regularly shared his thoughts on issues affecting enlisted airmen with Air Force Times.

The Air Force said that when Chief Binnicker was once asked how he hoped to be remembered, he said, "That I did my best. I would hope most people would say the same thing ... and that's all you can do. That's all the country can ask of you ... that you do your best." (Air Force Times).

ROSIE QUEEN - Treasurer



After what seemed like a long, cold, never ending winter, spring has finally sprung and Mother Nature is starting to keep us all busy outside. From what I understand from our previous treasurer, the winter months are also a quiet time for the HRA. There isn't too much happening in those cold winter months for which I am grateful, as I could get my feet wet as your new treasurer. The main activity is members catching up on their 2015 dues.

Mel Hamill has guided me on a few (self inflicted) issues and our former Treasurer Jerry Middendorf has made himself available for any questions I had; for that, I am grateful. Over the past few months, there is one thing that

has truly become very clear to me, it's the tremendous amount of work Mel Hamill does as our adjutant, and for that, I want to say "thank you Mel."

Once we got some warm sunshine to warm our aging bones, some of us started thinking of all the fun we always have at our reunions and have started to sign up for Traverse City. As we go forward into the next couple of months, I look forward to getting busier and I really enjoy seeing the registrations coming in for our 2015 Traverse City Reunion.

The HRA Reunion is about three short months away and I encourage everyone to start thinking about getting their registrations in as soon as you can. Before we know it, another month will have gone by – as time slips away. We all will get busy with our private vacations, visits to families far away, gardening, harvesting our gardens, or even a home improvement project, and before we know September will be upon us. And a reminder, the cutoff date for registrations is 26 August.

Myself, I will be going to Germany in July and a good part of August, so I know what preparations go into those trips and I almost forgot to make my hotel reservations for Traverse City.

So I urge you to put some time aside and send in your registrations to our adjutant, Mel Hamill, and please remember, you still need to call the hotel to make your own room reservations.

As far as the HRA finances are concerned, they are in splendid shape. The month ending 31 May, 2015 we have \$39,544.75 in our account. Lapel pins for the reunion have been ordered and paid for, as have the license plates that will be a new addition at the Traverse City Reunion, one that I look forward to getting.

And don't forget to forward Jerry Middendorf, or Phil Murray information on any items you would like to donate for our yearly auction at the reunion. Those items, in the past have helped tremendously raising funds and being able to donate monies to the Air Force Enlisted Village Home in Shalimar, FL and to the Elisabethen Orphanage in Hof.

With that said, I wish you all an enjoyable summer, stay safe and I look forward seeing you in Traverse City in September.

Rosie

JERRY MIDDENDORF - Call for Door Prizes



It's just about time to finalize our plans for our get-together in Traverse City, and that includes considering whether or not to make a donation for the 2015 Auction and Door Prize Program, which, in the past years, has been very popular. HRA President Dave Natalie has asked Jerry Middendorf and Phil Murray to act as co-chairmen of the committee.

Our membership is loaded with many talented members and spouses as past donations of hand crafted items will attest. In fact some of these people are too talented, to the extent they make us klutzes feel bad. However, we klutzes, should buck up and search out a treasure on our own, one we didn't hand craft, but perhaps one we purchased at a fine studio gallery, or a garage sale, or we found it in the basement, and is worthy of passing on. The door prizes will again add that little extra touch to make the 2015 Traverse City Reunion one of the most memorable to date.

We will be looking for donations of various items. In previous years we've had crochet doilies, wood carvings, hand crafted quilts and purses, embroidered table runners, dirndls, oil paintings, decorated handmade jewelry, puzzles, German bier steins, German/Austrian CD's, hat pins, collector plates, and many other items. Let your imagination be the guide.

At the Colorado Springs reunion, the auction and silent auction cleared over \$950 (US) which was almost enough to pay for the refreshments served in the hospitality room. The majority of the funds were generated by some very beautiful hand crafted items from our talented members. There were approximately 110 items donated, and we want to thank all the donors for their generosity and talent. We also cannot forget John Pace who volunteered as auctioneer in Colorado Springs. Great job John!

When you have determined that you are going to donate, we would appreciate it if you could contact us and give us a description of the item(s) you will be bringing. It helps tremendously when we have an idea of what to expect beforehand. In fact, if possible, it would be fantastic if you could send us a photo of the item(s) you intend to bring – we could use it for advertising.

Here's an example of a beautiful hand crafted quilt that will be there waiting for some lucky bidder.



And on the outside chance you won't be able to attend the reunion but wish to donate something anyway, contact us and we will have information on how to get it to Traverse City. Please don't send it to the Adjutant or the Door Prize Committee though, we won't have room in our carry-on luggage.

Don't hesitate to contact us if you have any questions or want to pass on the above information we requested.

Jerry Middendorf
405 Forehand Court
Bel Air, MD 21015-4821
Email : j.middendorf@comcast.net
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Phil Murray
755 Ridge Way
Fallbrook, CA 92082-2679
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Phone: 760 723 1726

PHIL RUTH - Membership



Several times in the past few years, I have had great success in reuniting friends or family members that had not seen each other for nearly 50 years. But, unfortunately that is not always the case. Sometimes a search seems to be going well, when suddenly it comes to a crashing halt.

On April 20, Marianne Baumgaertel Way, wife of HRA member Tresslar Way, Jr., posted a query on Facebook asking if anyone remembered Gabi

Kinsman, a good friend and classmate (Gabi Schmidt) from the Hofecker Schule in Hof. Gabi had married a GI, and Marianne last knew Gabi to be in Salem, Oregon, where her husband was sharpshooter with the police department. Gabi and husband had divorced, and he died years later in a motorcycle accident. Marianne went to Salem, and finding no phone listing for Gabi, called the police department. The police contacted Gabi, but Gabi failed to show up the next day for her meeting with Marianne. In years since, Marianne had forgotten Gabi's husband's first name, but said he was in Hof in the mid-1960s, and that he and Gabi had a son.

With some information to work with, I first looked in the Final Flyby and found Gary Kinsman. Then I searched for Gary Kinsman in Salem, Oregon and found a record for Gary, age 70, with a relative, Gabriele Barta Kinsman, age 68, also living in Salem. (People search engines do not delete a name once a person dies.) With a further search, I found Gary R. Kinsman, born 1945; died 2004 and buried in Salem. Also listed in the initial search was Frank R. Kinsman, age 49 living in Salem. Everything was fitting well. The final confirmation showed up in searches of Gary Kinsman that listed him as a policeman and showed his marriage in 1965 to Gabriela Schmidt in Benton County, Oregon.

I called a phone number listed for Frank R. Kinsman, but the number was no longer valid. I cross-checked the listed address and a different person lives there. I did an open internet search for Frank, and found he was arrested in 2014. I didn't pursue this, as I was sure the police would not give me any information about him.

My searches for Gabriela Kinsman gave me no phone numbers, but one search also listed Gabriela Hunt, indicating that she must have remarried. Doing a cross-

check on a most recent address, I called a next-door neighbor, and inquired about Gabriela Hunt. I was told that she had moved away several years ago; but, while living there, her son used to come next door for sandwiches often. The neighbor also said that she heard about four months earlier that Gabi is in a nursing home somewhere in Salem. With no more option, my search came to an abrupt end. Of course, I gave Marianne all of my information.

Another name that I worked on from time to time was Edward Barry Swain, known in Hof to some people as Barry. John Wible told me that Barry was from somewhere in North or South Carolina, age 71-72. Numerous searches have not yet produced anything positive. I am still hopeful on one probable relative, but, don't get any response to my voice mails.

A number of names have failed to give me any positive contact information; so, if anyone is in contact with these people, please let me know.

Ralph Cunningham

Elisabeth Derby (In Roster; no contact info; James Derby in Final Flyby)

Jan Gross

Jerry L. Lockerman (In Roster as Missing)

Carl A. Lutters, Jr. (In Roster; invalid phone number)

Raymond Phillips (Married girl from Naila named Elisabeth)

Vernon L. Phillips (In Roster as Missing)

Richard Momany (In Roster; invalid phone number)

Dale A. Robinson (In Roster; invalid phone number)

Harry Y. Smith, Jr. (In Roster; invalid phone number)

Since the cutoff for my January 2015 Newsletter input, I have had the following more positive search results. I e-mailed or snail-mailed paperwork to 21 Hofers. In mid-April, I e-mailed a renewal invitation and paperwork to 12 FY14 delinquent members. I spoke with 5 former members who declined to rejoin for primarily aging/health reasons. Either through search or contact with relatives, I determined that 9 Hofers are deceased.



Also since the cutoff for his January 2015 Newsletter article, there have been some positive moments involving previous successes for Phil. In his travels earlier this year, he has gotten together with Tony and Michael Williams again: a father and son he was able to get reunited not too long ago.

JERRY MANGAS – Webmeister

Hof Reunion Website update:



The frustration level is running high at the moment due to some kind of unresolved conflict (depending on who you listen to) between Windows7 or XP, Oracle's Java, and Sitebuilder, and again, depending on who you listen to, Yahoo! (who hosts our site and produces "Sitebulder," which is the new site construction program, and "Small Business Management" [SBM] which we used to build the much earlier version of the website). Java is one of the subroutines that make the Web what it is today. All things look almost the same no matter if you use Windows of any flavor, a Mac, any one of a hundred variants of Linux (I use 4 at the moment). Sitebuilder and SBM (and many others) are simply codewriters that tell your machine what you should be seeing on the screen and making it happen. Here is the conundrum: I can log into our website using Yahoo! and work with the old and kludgy SBM program with no problem, and make some changes and additions, but I cannot easily publish changes to the new material. I need Sitebuilder for that and I can run it on several of my machines here, make the needed changes, add names, pictures, even music, etc. to your hearts desire, but when I try to publish anything to the actual website I can probably only do it once in fifty tries. The interesting thing is the password is the same going either way as is the user name. If you had checked the website on 4 June 2015, in just looking at the home page, you would have seen the effect with an incomplete posting just under "click to enter" and again on the Memorial page.

The solution posted recently by Yahoo! is to click this, then unclick that, then sign in as a different user using the normal name and the normal password. So far that has worked exactly twice. This is what normal is ...



The website itself, as far as the public goes, gets 3 to 5 legitimate hits a day, most using the search engine term "Hof/Saale" which is interesting in itself since that is the older name for Hof, the one that most of us use. The city is now listed in all German listings simply as Hof. No more Hof/Saale, Hof a.d. Saale or Hof an der Saale. Just plain Hof will do nicely.

The spammers continue to plague the guestbook by going directly to that website and avoiding our simple "Are you human?" trap, although changing this or that parameter will stop them for a while. The difficulty there is that it can also frustrate and stop the human traffic we are trying to reach, if I make message length requirements longer or shorter.

AFEV Commemorative Plaque

In May of 2014, Jerry Middendorf, contacted Scarlett Bauman, the Director of Marketing for AFEV, about the feasibility of having an HRA commemorative plaque placed on one of the buildings in the AFEV complex. After coordinating with Chief Binnicker we got a resounding "OK" for the project and they moved forward. It took us a while to finalize the inscription we wanted, but we finally got it (it was tough - a total of 11 words).



The plaque was placed adjacent to the entry door of a furnished Guest Suite in Bob Hope Village 2. The primary purpose of these furnished guest quarters is to provide a temporary, safe, secure home for military widows until permanent quarters are arranged. These quarters are also rented to family members when they come to visit permanent residents.

Traverse City Reunion Shirts, Pins, Hats, and Decals



Here is the logo design that will be on upper left front chest of the 2015 Traverse City Shirts. The Shirt Order Form is

on the back of the 2015 HRA Traverse City Registration Form, so be sure to order your shirt(s) when mailing in your registration. Deadline for ordering is August 29, 2015. All shirts in 2015 will be Gildan Unisex, Navy Blue color, short sleeve Polos with the logo design. The cost will be \$15.00 per shirt. Sizes: M, L, XL, XXL, XXXL, and XXXXL.

The 2015 HRA Traverse City reunion pins will be in your registration packet when you register on Sunday. Extra 2015 pins will be on sale at \$2.00 each.

During Registration on Monday, 28 September, we will have our HRA Hof Germany hats on sale for \$8.00 each. We still have some pins from past reunion and they will be for sale for \$.50 each. HRA Pins and HRA decal stickers for sale for \$.25 each. And there are some extra 2014 Colorado Springs reunion shirts on sale for \$10. If interested in any of these, be sure to see Don Riverkamp when registering.



MEMBERS PASSING

We close this newsletter on a somber note as we acknowledge those that have passed from our midst. This is a list of members whose loss we have been informed of just since the last reunion in September of 2014. A reminder that now is the time to reconnect with our friends; it may not be possible next year. Our deepest sympathies and condolences to all the families and friends of those we lost.

Flyby list:

Harold R. Adams, Quincy L. Adams, Lonnie D. Akers, Ralph V. Armstrong, Edwin H. Ashlock, Hugh James 'Jim' Bagley, Jerry S. Bailey, Paul E. Bryan, Ellen E. Boucher (Nurse), Mitch 'Smokey' Burgess, Raymond E. Chmielewski, Sherman B. Clayton, Richard Lee Cook, Nolan Wayne Creekmore, Barry R. Chumbley, Dorothy 'Major Cucka' Burton (Nurse), William 'Charlie' Epperson, William 'Bill' Ford, Raymond Hickey, Lance R. Holmstrom, Thomas D. Laury, Lawrence B. 'Larry Burda' Longeway, Tommy Nelson, James E. Pomplun, Harold V. Puffer, Jack K. Sinagra, Kenneth H. Stargardt, Jackie Lee Stewart, Ernie Stokes, Quinton L. Tschirhart, John H. Williams, and Michael Ray Williams.

Ladies Serving in Heaven:

Vera 'Kandler' Ard, Beverly Kay Gootee, Norma E. Jenik, JayDell Johnson, Luise 'Mueller' Keppel, Louise Morgan, Eva-Maria 'Heidersdorf' Ross, and Linda Jean Sever.



CURRENT BOARD MEMBERS AND STAFF:

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