

1987-THE YEAR OF THE MEMORIAL

DEDICATED TO THE FRIENDS WHO DID NOT RETURN



Size: 4 ft high-6 ft wide
Weight: 575lbs
Construction Material: Bronze
Cost: \$15,000.00
Location: McDermott Library, UTD
Made by: International Bronze, New York, NY (1987)

This Year's reunion was held at the Hyatt Hotel in Dallas. Around 500 guests attended. This was our largest reunion to date for the club. We felt honored that employees of Civil Air Transport and The Flying Tigers came. Also in attendance was William Colby as our guest speaker. Christopher Robbins, author of the book Air America, along with the Hollywood director who wrote the screen play for the movie Air America showed up to try and allay fears about their up-coming movie. They failed. Vicki Menks of CBS came mainly to interview Gene Hasenfus who had just returned from an all expense paid vacation to Central America. Some of the customers attended. However, the most important guests to attend were the family members of the people whose names appeared on our memorial.



The Lobby of the Hyatt Hotel filled with reunion attendees.

Photos this year were contributed by Frank Stegar, Gus Guatafson, Kay Merkle, and J. Chow. Thank you very much for the memories you have preserved for all of us. I think others may have contributed photos also, but these were the only names in the original book.

Sooo..open up the hospatality room and let's get down to partying!!!



Kay Merkel, Jesse Walton, Jack Knotts, French Smith, and Elmer Munsell



Jim and Pat Shive



Monty Sandoval, Glenn Riley, George Calhoun, Miles Lechtman, and Ruth Stallman



Sue Ladue (Miller) and Deanna Dubinsky



Bob Mitchell, Tony Byrne, Frank Stergar, Russ Van Hellen, and Bill Johnson



K.D. Nolan, Kippie Densley, and Dave Crowell



Jim Linebarger, Art Kenyon, and Jack Thompson



Hazel Whitney (Carole Lashomb's mother),
Carole and Leon Lashomb, and Mary Ann
Curtis (Carole's sister)



Jean Landry, B.J. Singleton, and
Jim and Jayne Linebarger



B.J. Singleton and Jim Linebarger



Grant Walters and Terry Turner



Roger Hana



George Calhoun



Miles Lechtman



Bob Rousselot



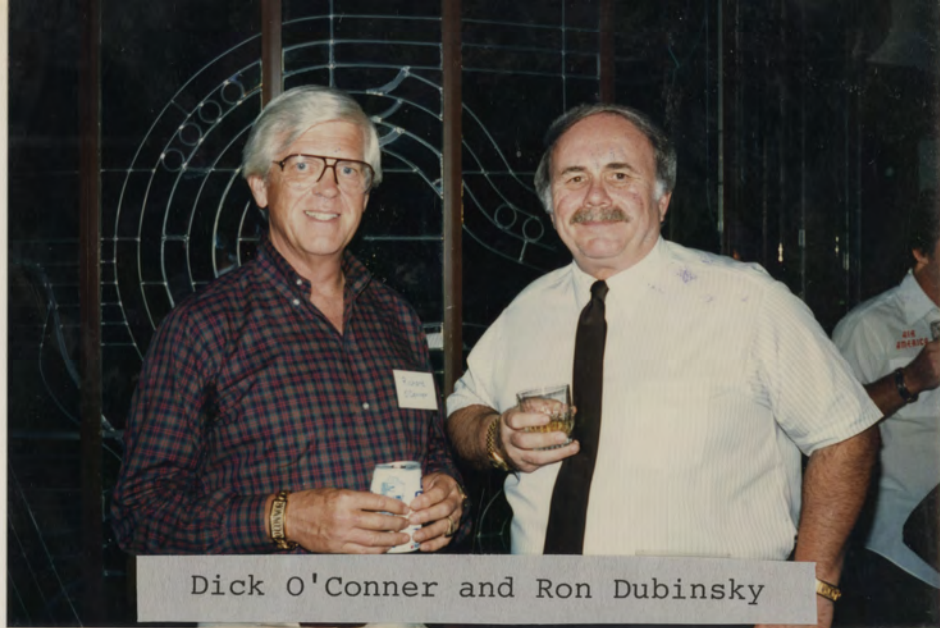
Rosie Rosenberg and Lee Howell



Mike Seale



Larry Stadulis and Boyd Mesecher



Dick O'Conner and Ron Dubinsky



John Stallman



Frank Herrington, Gary Edwards, Jack Knotts, and Bert Opitz



Jamean Chow B.J. Singleton, and Jack Leister



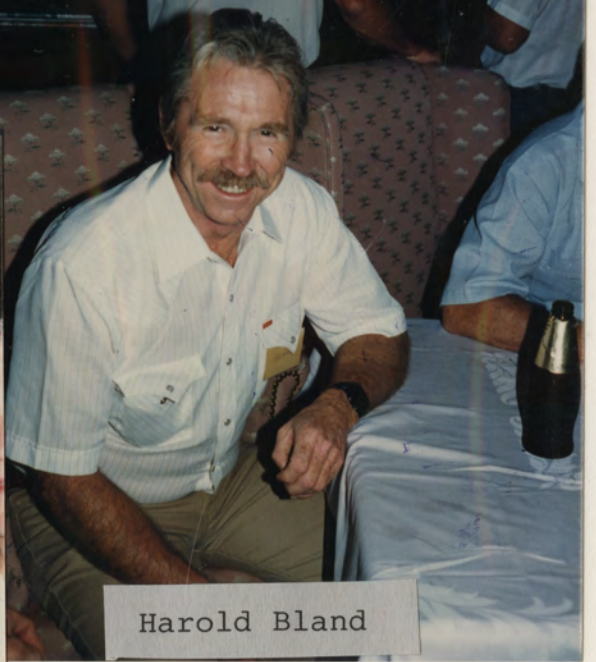
Bob Murray, Larry Stadulis, and Mark Sweeney



Brian and Juliette Johnson



French Smith and Jerry McEntee



Harold Bland



Bill and Joanne Shaver, Don Rome, and ?



Lee Damon, Rocky Meir, Jack Thompson,
Bert Opitz, and Les Bays



Jim Linebarger, Art Kenyon,
Jack Thompson and Tony Coalson



Lang Thi and Fred Anderson



John McRainey and Bob Murray



Germaine Mullen and Jeff Johnson



Lee Damon, Rocky Meir, Bert Opitz, Les Bays,
and Gus Gustafson

...and this is what reunions are all about



Jean Landry, Juliette and Brian Johnson
Kippie Densley, Bob Hitchman, and unidentified



Ron Anderson, Ken Woods, Ben Densley, Roger Cook,
Kippie Densley, K.D. Nolan, Jim Rhyne, Carol Hails,
and Colleen Calligeos



Lee Dammon, Betty Van Hellen, Florence Dammon,
Chau and Stan Thompson, and Grant Walters



Ron Anderson, Ken Woods, Ben and Kippie Densley,
Roger Cook, K.D. Nolan, Jim Rhyne, Carol Hails,
and Colleen Calligeros



Lee Dammon, Betty Van Hellen, Florence Dammon,
Pete and Happy Parker, Chau Thompson,
Grant Walters, and Stan Thompson



Lee Dammon, Betty Van Hellen, Florence Dammon,
Pete and Happy Parker, Chau Thompson,
Grant Walters, and Stan Thompson



R.J. Bond, Gary Gentz, and Frank Devito



Frank Stergar, Stan and Chau Thompson, and Tony Byrne



Russ Van Hellen, Betty Dawson, Betty Van Hellen, Bob Dawson, Herman Hines, Angela Hines, unidentified, Bob Stensloff, and unidentified



Katie Morehouse, Sally Hoff, Clyde Morehouse, Herman Hines, Leslie Jean Singleton, Julie Olsen, and unidentified



Kay Foiles? ? Herman Hines, Dick Stuart, Austin Moon, unidentified, and Cliff White



Bob Stensloff, Sharon and Frank Bonansinga, and George Calhoun

The Saturday morning business meeting-

THE BIG DAY



Bill Leary, Walt Ranallo, Leon Lashomb, John Stallman, Carole Lashomb, Marty Kaufman, Dick Ford, Jerry McEntee, and Duane Keele around the table



John Stallman, Carole Lashomb, Marty Kaufman, Dick Ford, Jerry McEntee, unidentified, Bob Stensloff, and Duane Keele at table left
Hazel Whitney, Monty Sandoval, Glenn Riley, and Ruth Stallman at table right
Unidentified, unidentified, DICK O'CONNOR, UNIDENTIFIED, Jack Thompson, unidentified, Lee Howell, Angelo Spelios, unidentified, Gus Gustafson, Fred Anderson, Bob Dawson, and Miles Lechtman across the back



Walt Ranallo, Leon Lashomb, Jean Landry, Ron Dubinsky and children, Jerry Fink and Lee Strickland



Walt Ranallo, Leon Lashomb, Jean Landry, Ron Dubinsky with daughters, Jerry Fink, and Lee Strickland



Walt Ranallo, Leon Lashomb, Jean Landry, and Mary Parker

After the business meeting, Kay Merkel (wife of John Merkel) presided over a reception and orientation meeting for the families of those honored on the memorial.



After the morning meetings were concluded, the group boarded the buses to be transported to the University of Texas at Dallas campus where the dedication ceremony was to take place.



Boarding the bus at the hotel.



Aboard the bus enroute, Dr. William Leary talks with Vicki Mears of the press while an unidentified young man and Bill Andresevic listen in.



Disembarking at the campus



Doug Dexter pipes everyone into the auditorium.

The group gathers in the arrival area of the auditorium prior to the ceremony.



The auditorium seats begin to fill.
The attendance is around 500 members and guest.



Speakers at the dedication were Robert H. Rutford (President of The University of Texas at Dallas), Leon Lashomb, C.J. Abadie, William Colby, Dr. Larry Sall, and Duane Keele. Mr. Jerry Fink recorded the ceremonies on video tape. He also gave the eulogy which is printed in place of pictures.

EULOGY
FOR
AIR AMERICA AND CAT EMPLOYEES
ON THE OCCASION OF A MEMORIAL DEDICATION
McDERMOTT LIBRARY, UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT DALLAS
BY
JERRY FINK
30 MAY, 1987

It was with some hesitation that I accepted the task of delivering the eulogy for 241 people because many of them were not known to me personally. Their death or disappearance had occurred over a period of three decades and they represented six different cultural backgrounds. In addition, another decade has slipped by since the door closed on the events which bring us together here today. In such circumstances, I wondered how should one begin?

There is a common thread which connects each name on the Honor Roll being dedicated. At the time each person died or was declared missing in action they were employed by an aviation complex best known collectively as "Air America" or "cat" That common thread has continued and connects the past to the present. Many past employees here today are members of the Air America Club which initiated this memorial effort, the Cat Association or Both. With the assistance of the McDermott Library and the University of Texas at Dallas we Members of the two organizations, along with the families, friends and relatives of those being honored are ensuring that this common thread shall serve as a connection to the future.

We have undertaken to do this so that none of those who died or disappeared shall be forgotten. That not one of them, in the words of Sir Walter Scott, shall go "unwept, unhonored and unsung". The cause of freedom for which they gave so much shall be continued in their names.

"To everything there is a season and a time to every purpose under the heaven." The time to honor those who died or disappeared is Now, Today, at this dedication ceremony.

- We honor them for the courage of their convictions supporting foreign wars where democracy and freedom of the individual were being challenged;

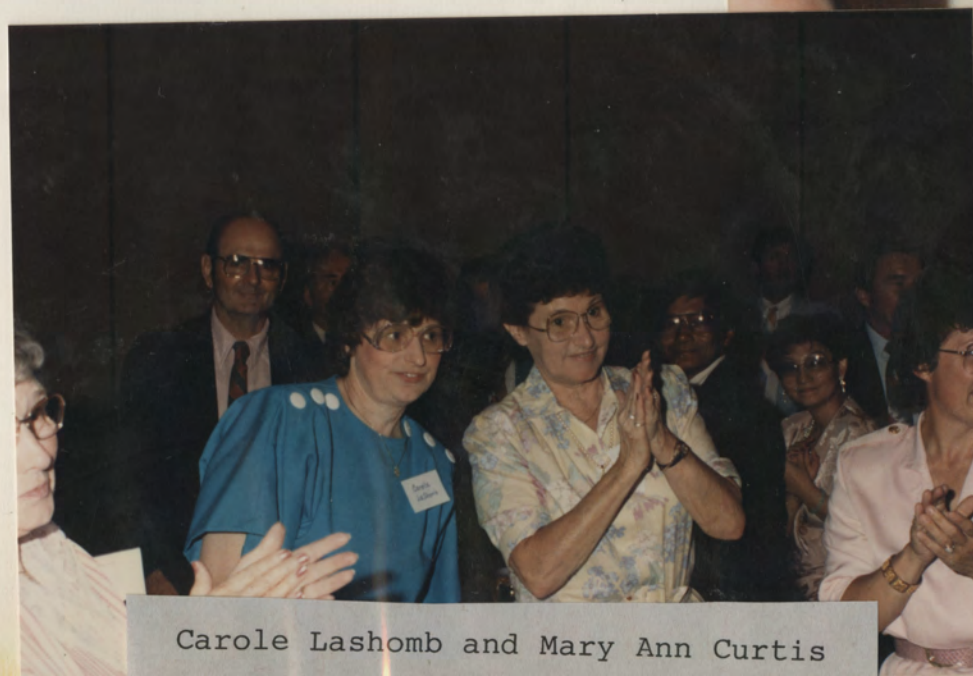
- We honor them for the devotion to duty required working side by side with citizens of countries who were fighting a losing battle to keep their lands free, often under substandard conditions and in hostile situations;



Leon Lashomb, William Colby, Bob Hitchman,
Dr. Larry Shall, and Jerry McEntee



Leon Lashomb, William Colby, Bob Hitchman,
Dr. Larry Sall, and Jerry McEntee



Carole Lashomb and Mary Ann Curtis





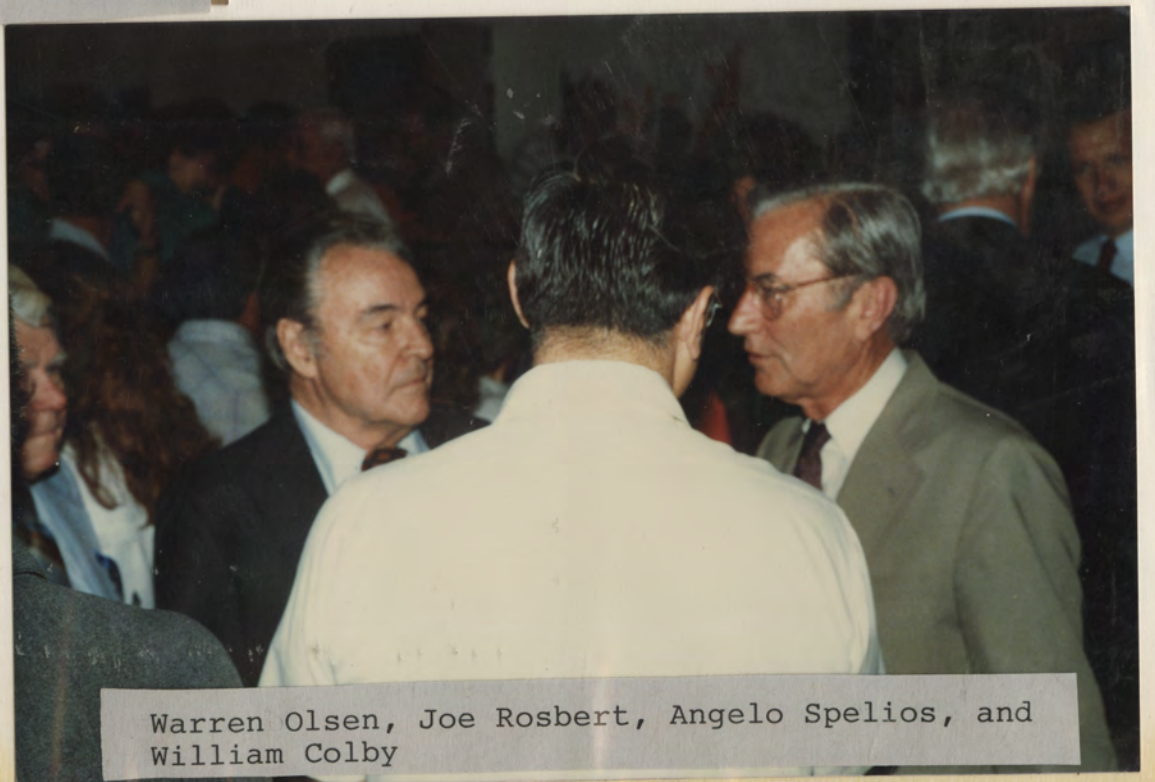
Jerry Fink, William Colby, Dave Hickler,
and Marty Kaufman



Bob Rousselot, Jessie Aderholt, and William Colby



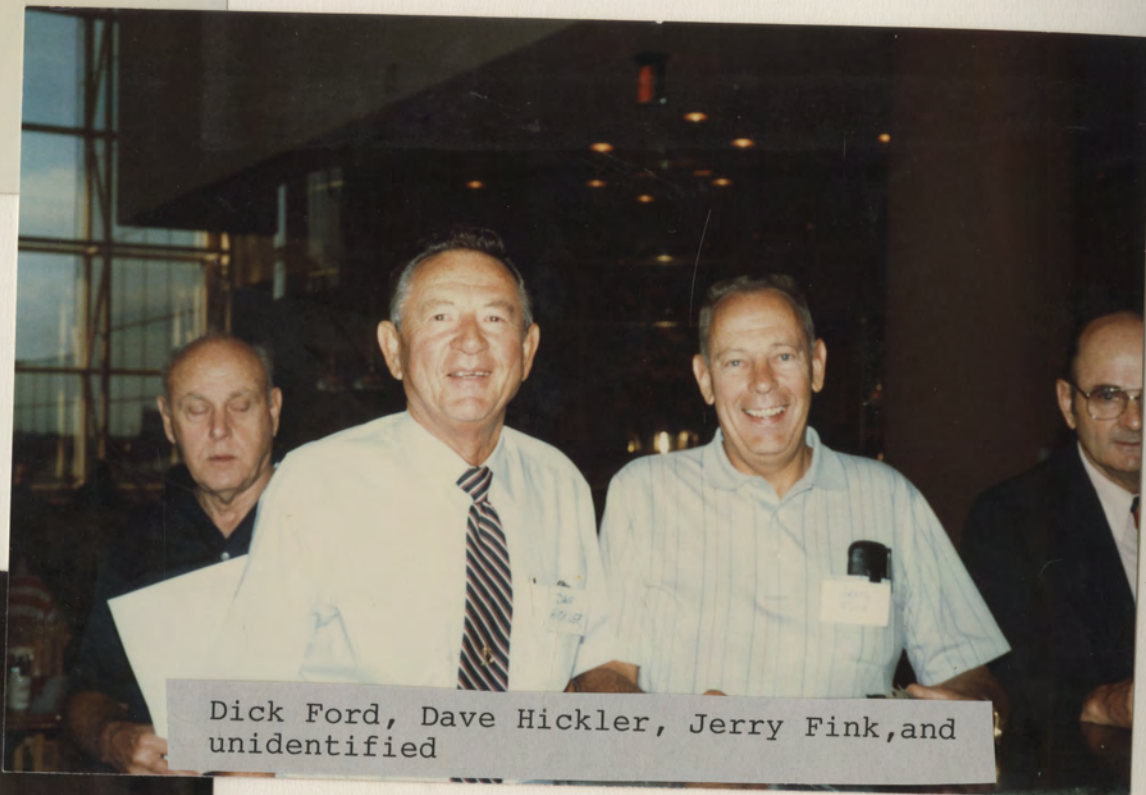
Unidentified lady sitting, C.J. Abadie, William Colby,
Angelo Spelios, Jessie and Harry Aderholt, and
Bob Rousselot



Warren Olsen, Joe Rosbert, Angelo Spelios, and
William Colby



Unidentified back, William Colby, Angelo Spelios, C.J. Abadie, and unidentified



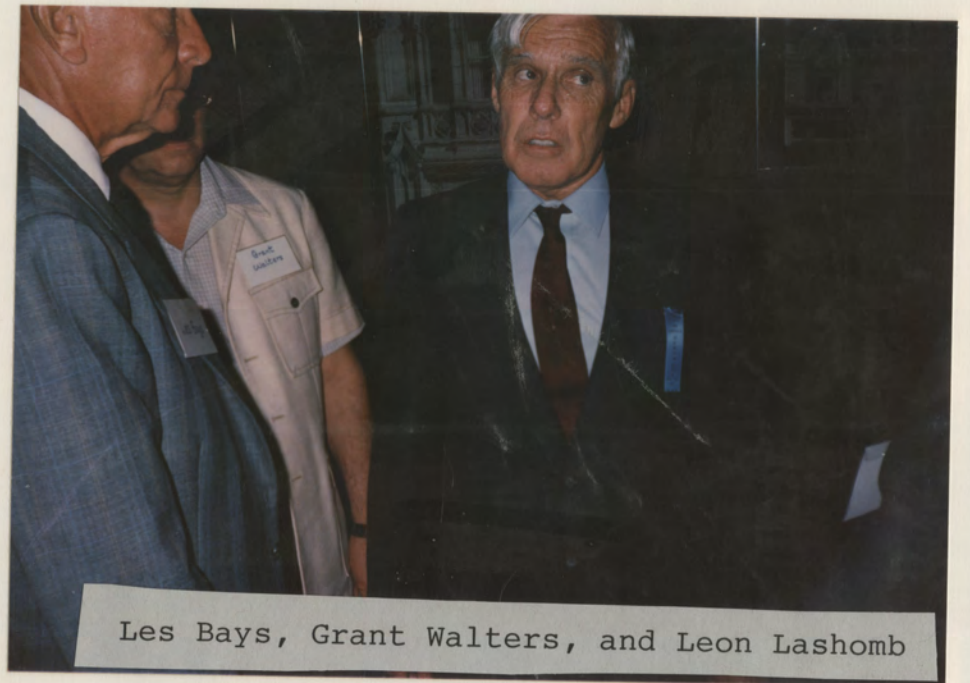
Dick Ford, Dave Hickler, Jerry Fink, and unidentified



Dave Hickler and unidentified



Duane Keele, Ron Dubinsky, and Gene Rainville



Les Bays, Grant Walters, and Leon Lashomb



Jack Knotts, unidentified, Bill LeCount, Robbie Roberts, Kippie Densley, French Smith, Bill Johnson, and unidentified



Constance Lashomb and Mark ...

The items shown below were part of the display for the reception at the library. Those contributing to the display were Judy porter(pictures), Russ Van Hellen, Elmer Munsel, C.J. Abadie, Kay Merkel, and Duane Keele.



C.J. Abadie with one of the paintings he supplied for the exhibit.



The Dedication Reception







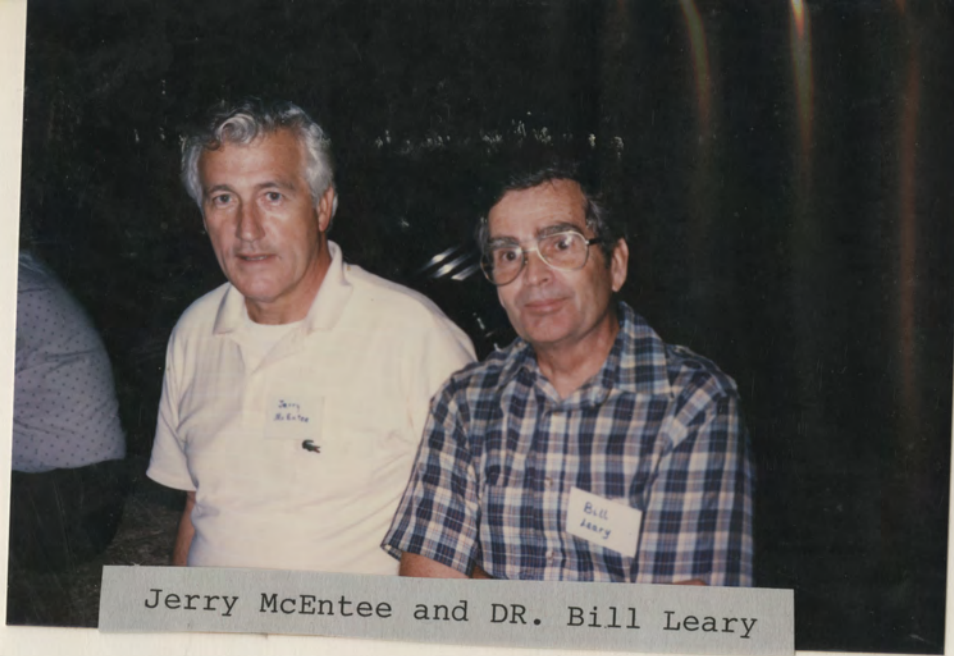
In front row only: John Lee, Bob Rousselot, Jessie and Harry Aderholt, Jessie Walton's back, and Janet Bond



Bill Collier, Doug Dexter, Larry Sall, Ken Woods, Ben Densley, Duane Keele, and Denny Kawalek save the cost of a crane by manually transporting the memorial from the auditorium to its permanent location in the McDermott Library.



Vicki Mears interviews Gene Hasenfus about his recent stay in Central America. Dan Gamelin who was also there watches.



Jerry McEntee and DR. Bill Leary



Jane Mullins and Ellie Aiken
unidentified lady in red



Dave Crowell, Kippie Densley, Betty Van Hellen,
June Crowell, and Jack Knotts



Unidentified man, Debbie Pirkle, Scott Pirkle,
and Robin Pirkle



Bill Johnson, Judy Porter, Rita Johnson,
Pete Parker and Judy Forney



Unidentified lady, Eddie Sims, and Dave Lam

The ceremony gets under way.



Roger Cook, Duane Keele, and Leon Lashomb



Joe Rosbert delivers the Cat Association address



Leon Lashomb delivers the Air America Club address

Leon Lashomb, Board Chairman of The Air America Club, presents awards in recognition of the work that went into making this memorial a reality.



Mr. Jesse Walton received his Award for the many months of effort he put in searching for the list of names that appear on the Memorial. (It should be noted that he was the first to suggest this Memorial be designed and designated.)

Mr. Jerry McEntee received his award for overseeing the co-ordination, design and quality control of the Memorial Plaque. (The construction took place in New York, and Jerry made sure the plaque arrived in Dallas on time-no small feat in itself.)



Mr C.J. Abadie received his award for collecting the funds needed to finance this endeavor.



J. Fink accepts award given Bill Merrigan for his aid in securing accurate info on date of death



Dr. Larry Sall received his award for the work he has done in setting up the CAT/ Air America archives at the Mc Dermott Library, UTD and locating a place for the Memorial



Jane Mullins accepts the award for her husband Lee Mullins for his efforts in locating the names of the people on the memorial.

With all the ceremonies and festivities behind them, the members were glad to sit down to a banquet and celebrate the establishment of the CAT/Air America Archives and Memorial.



Gen. Harry and Jessie Aderholt, unidentified, John Lee, and unidentified at front table



Fred Walker, Bill Andresevic, unidentified, Gen. Harry and Jessie Aderholt, unidentified, and John Lee



Gary Edwards, Ken Miller, Judith and Dick O'Conner, Mark Sweeney, Mike Seale Gene Rainville, and Scott Pirkle



Unidentified lady with Mrs. and Mr. Bill Brockway



Jack and Uyvonda Slager, Frank Balsley unidentified, unidentified, Daisy AND Glenn Riley and Stormey Glinderman



Bob Lee



Carole Lashomb's mother, Leon and Carole Lashomb, Mary Ann Curtis unidentified lady, Walt Ranallo, unidentified lady, and Duane Keele



Larry and Judy Sall, Jesse Walton, Jerry and Erna McEntee, and Jerry's son



K.D. Nolan, Jane Mullins, three unidentified, and Maxine and Les Bays



Billy and Ying Pearson, Dave and June Crowell, unidentified couple, and Elmer Munsel



Clockwise from left: Glenn Riley, Stormey and Hank Glinderman, Sally Hoff, Jack and Uyvonda Slager, Frank Balsley, unidentified, and Daisy Riley



Ron Allendorfer and John Burkholder



Bea and George Stevens, with Ruth and John Stallman



Doug Dexter with unidentified couple

At table left rear: Larry Fraser with glass, and Stephen Theriault



John Burkholder, Ron Allendorfer, unidentified, Mrs. and Mr Bill Brockway, unidentified, Bob and June Hitchman



Unidentified, Gus Gustafson, Al Cates, Rita and Bill Johnson, and Two unidentified ladies



Mick Forrest, Jerry Toman, Vicki Mears, (standing) Ruthann Theriault, Carol Toman, Cecila and Dave Ankerberg



June and Bob Hitchman



The only one I can identify at this table is Herman Hines at far left Angela Hines - right of Herman Hines



Jean Landry talks with Judith O'Conner, Gary Edwards, Dick O'Conner, Mike Seale, Mark Sweeney, Ken Miller, Jim and Pat Shive



J.C. and Janet Bond, Art Kenyon, three unidentified ladies, Bea Stevens, and Ruth Stallman

..and then, to top it off, they danced.



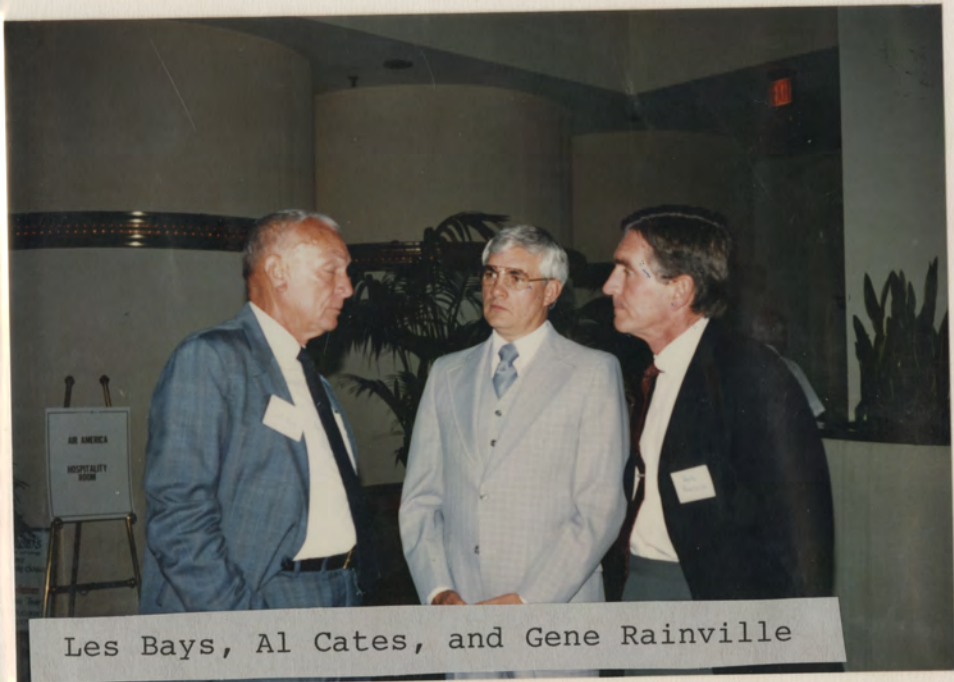
It was one hell of a day!



Dang and Dennis Grace



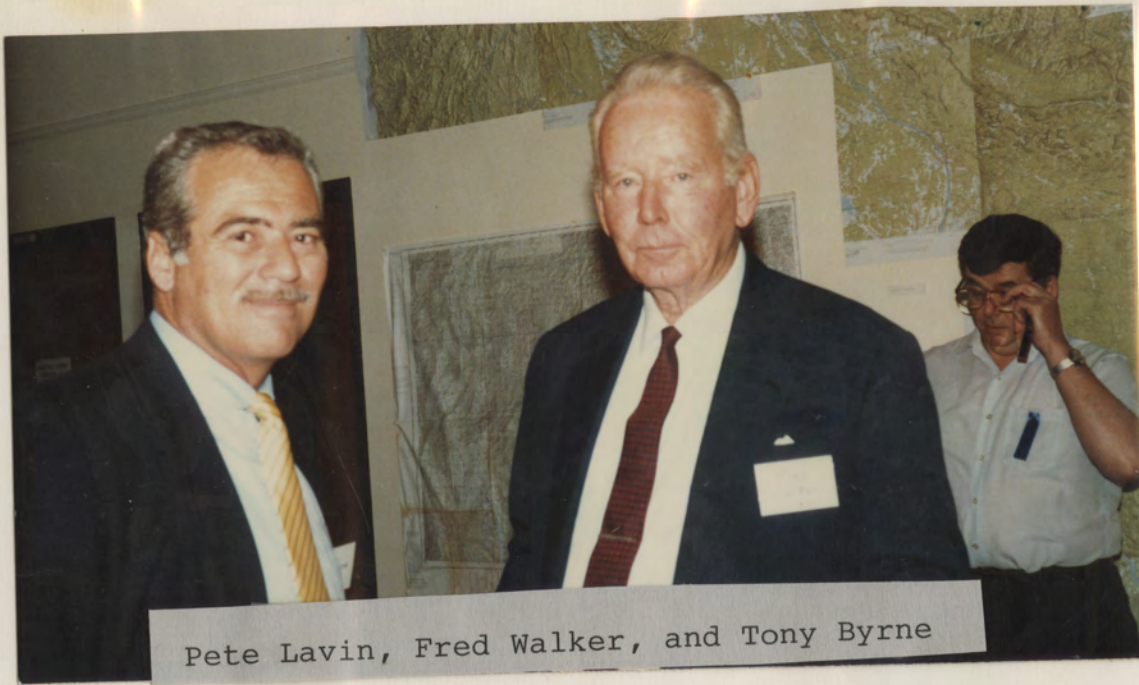
Elmer Munsell and Bob Stensloff



Les Bays, Al Cates, and Gene Rainville



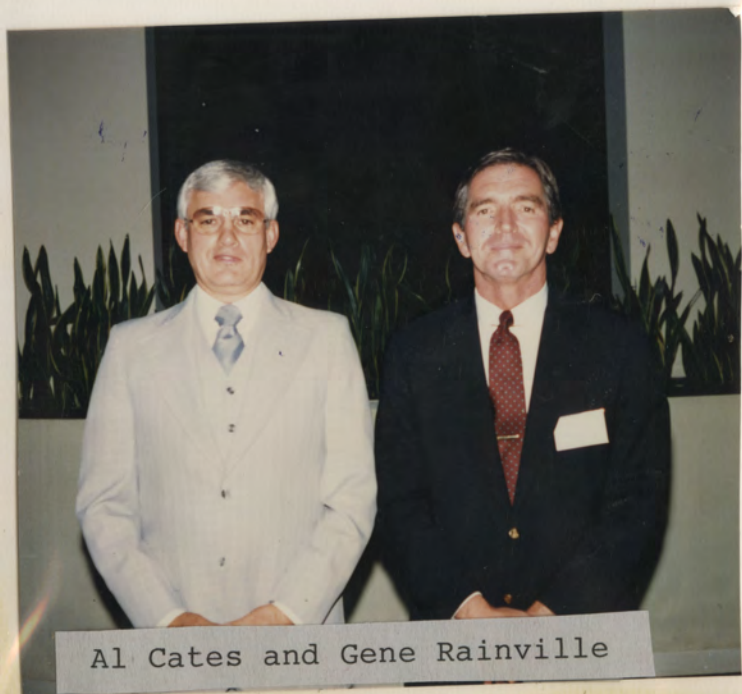
Al Cates, Gus Gustafson, and Gene Rainville



Pete Lavin, Fred Walker, and Tony Byrne



John Lee, Jerry Connor, and J.C. Bond



Al Cates and Gene Rainville



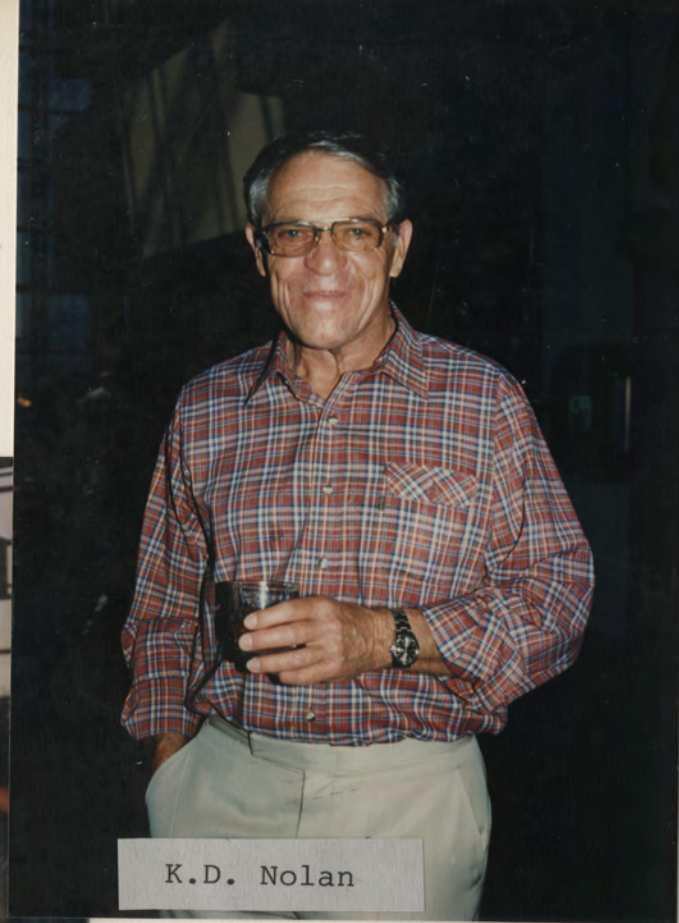
Gene Hasenfus, Fred Anderson, French Smith, and Karl Seethaler



Billy Pearson
Note-Billy was killed about a week later in a crash in South America.



Gene Hasenfus



K.D. Nolan



Al Cates



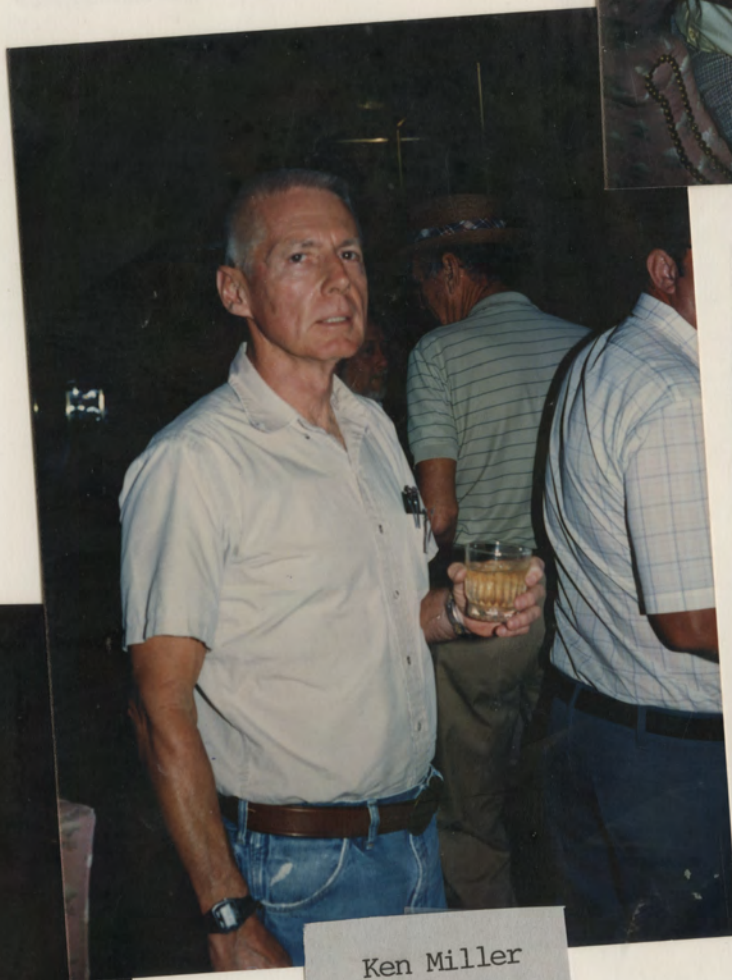
Bill LeCount



Frank Bonansinga



Fred Anderson



Ken Miller



Ty Theisen



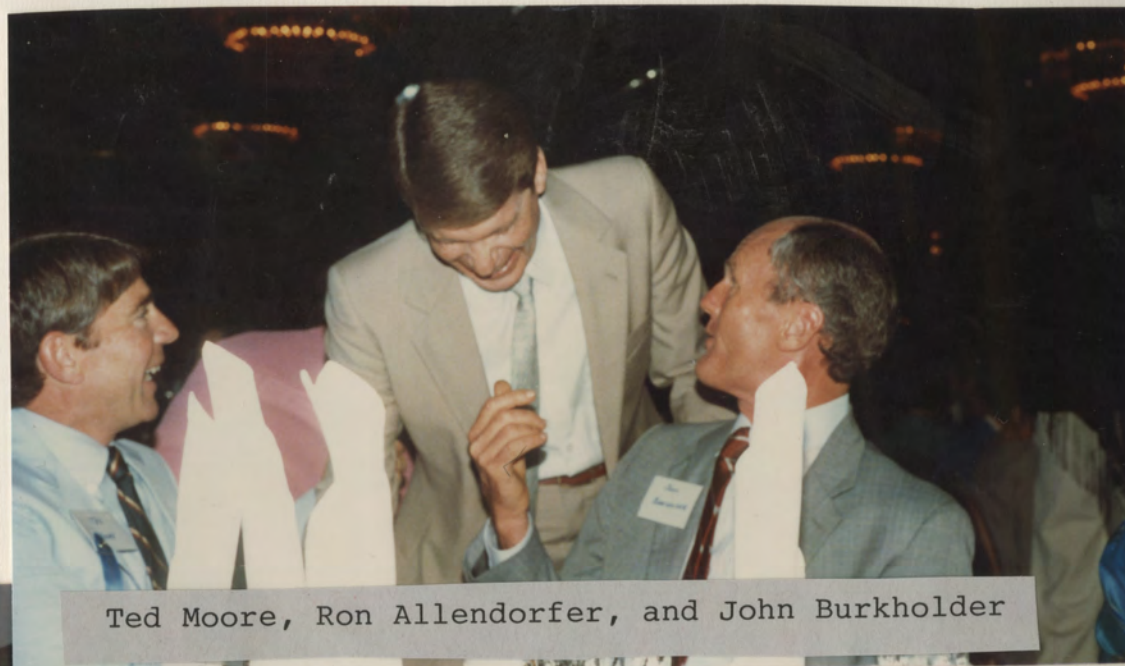
Vince Clarke



Bob Dawson, French Smith, June and Dave Crowell,
and Ron Anderson



Ed Moreland and
Bob Stensloff



Ted Moore, Ron Allendorfer, and John Burkholder



Dick O'Conner, Les Bays, George "Shakey"
Calhoun, Judith O'Conner, Lee Howell,
and Angelo Spelios



Germaine and Jim Mullen with
Monty Sandoval



Les Bays, Al Cates, Gene Rainville,
Ron Dubinsky, and Russ Van Hellen



Christopher Robbins (author of Air America),
Jack Knotts, Roger Cook, Duane Keele, Phil
Jennings, and Don Overfield



Eddy Sims and Jack Leister



Carmen Sylvester, John McRainey with daughter, and Sandy McRainey



June C., Pete Lavin, Pete Parker, Kippie Densley, and



John Lee, unidentified, unidentified, and Jesse Walton



Bob Rousselot, Bob and June Hitchman with unidentified gentleman



Bob Rousselot, Bob and June Hitchman with--wait a minute, he's no gentleman



Bill Leonard, Dick and Ruth Fisher, and Terry Turner



Unidentified, Nicki Lampard, Dave Lampard, and Connie Seigris



Ying Pearson, Clarence Abadie, Ede Gentz, Sunlon Pearson, Billy Pearson, and cute little girl



Jerry Fink and brother in Florida (1987)

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

May 5, 1987

It gives me great pleasure to greet everyone gathered for the Air America Club's 1987 reunion, and to dedicate a memorial for the pilots and associates of Air America who died in the line of duty in Asia during 1947-1975.

Each of you has gone his separate way in the world, but -- as this reunion shows once again -- the unique service you shared in defense of freedom forged a bond of brotherhood that time and distance cannot break. Unsung and unrecognized, each of you confronted danger and endured terrible hardships, and each of you rose to the challenge; you never faltered. Although free people everywhere owe you more than we can hope to repay, our greatest debt is to your companions who gave their last full measure of devotion. Just as their names are inscribed on this memorial, so their memories are inscribed in our hearts. We will never forget them or their families, some of whom still seek answers.

I send a special salute to all those members of Air America present, and reaffirm my Administration's pledge to obtain the fullest possible accounting on the fate of our missing in action. You have my best wishes. God bless you, and God bless America.

Ronald Reagan



STATE OF TEXAS
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
AUSTIN, TEXAS 78711

WILLIAM P. CLEMENTS, JR.
GOVERNOR

May 1, 1987

Greetings:

It is my pleasure to send greetings to the Air America Club's reunion on this special occasion.

It is important to the health and welfare of our nation to remember those veterans and volunteers who answered the call of duty. A nation cannot ask more of any citizen than to risk his or her life for the country's preservation.

In Southeast Asia, 242 American civilians lost their lives between 1948 and 1975 flying supply and other missions for the U.S. government. The conditions and equipment with which they worked were never the best, yet they never gave up in the fight for freedom.

It is with thanks and gratefulness that I offer my best wishes to the surviving members of their families. It is high time that these brave individuals be honored, and there is no better place than the McDermott Library's aviation section.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "W.P. Clements, Jr." with a stylized flourish at the end.

William P. Clements, Jr.
Governor

WPC/jr



Elmer Munsell and Duane Keele collected and transported the the decorations and photographs for the library reception room. We wish to thank Clarence Abadie, Judy Porter, Russ and Betty Van Hellen, and Duane Keele for contributing items to display at the library.



Bob Kopitzke

Duane Keele, President, and Elmer Munsell present the first Air America Club contribution to the archives. The money was donated by members of the Club to support our memorial and archives.



Norma and Chuck Green, Jane Mullins, Joan and Lou McCasland, Uyvonda and Jack Slager



Jean Landry, Ruth Stallman, Betty Landry, Carole Lashomb, Hazel Whitney, French Smith, Leon Lashomb, and Fred PLatt

Gettys — LaRue

Robin Kit Gettys and Matthew Charles LaRue were married June 21 by the Rev. Evelyn Beard and Rev. Vernagaye Sullivan in Hopewell United Methodist Church, Glenford.

The bride is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Wesley Gettys of 5920 Township Road 98, Thornville. The groom is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Patrick LaRue of 5995 Lancaster-New Lexington Road S.E., Lancaster.

Mildred Palmer provided the organ music for the ceremony. Karen Walters was guest-book attendant.

Escorted to the altar by her father, the bride wore her mother's wedding gown made of chantilly lace featuring long tapering sleeves and deep scooped neckline with a full flared skirt. The bridal veil was of chantilly lace edged mantilla of pure silk imported English illusion. She carried a bouquet of stephanotis, white roses and baby's breath.

Maid of honor was Karen Robinson, friend of the bride. Bridesmaid was Mrs. Debbie Gettys, sister-in-law of the bride.

Best man was Ken Householder, friend of the groom. Groomsman was



MR. AND MRS.
MATTHEW CHARLES LA RUE

brothers of the groom, and Jody Gettys, brother of the bride.

A reception followed at the Thornville American Legion Hall. The women of the church were in charge with Bobbi Wineman, Susan LaRue and Carolyn Rowles serving as hostesses.

The bride is a 1980 graduate of Sheridan High School and employed by the Newark Animal Hospital.

The groom is a 1980 graduate of Fairfield Union High School and farms with his father.



Pop Buell's daughter, her son-in-law and bride

MR. POP'S GROOMSMAN

Frank E. Stergar

5418 Sugar Creek Drive
Corpus Christi, TX 78413

06-08-87

Leon,

The wife said you called
last night about your photographer
letting you down. Well, I guess
I did too. Only 2 not to good
photo came out. My daughter
opened up the camera before
she completely rewound the film.
I do have 1 good shot of Bob
R though. Seems I have a
propensity for cutting off heads

Thanks again for the
fine job you, Duane, Stallman &
others did at Dallas.

Frank



LTC Sungkon Chatiklang, Chief-of-Police
Mukdahaw, Thailand
Former employee Udorn Club



Jack Smith's restaurant in
Pamama City, Florida (1987)

