



Lübeck - Association Newsletter



Hansestadt Lübeck

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GUN FIGHT IN OLD TUCSON MARS AN OTHERWISE PERFECT REUNION (FILM AT ELEVEN)

The biggest and long awaited Lübeck Association reunion in Tucson Arizona began as most do, with the opening of the hospitality suite at around 2:00 P.M. on Sunday October 16th. Most of the 88 attendees were soon present, renewing old acquaintances from 40 years past, hugging each other like long lost brothers (sisters too), and having an all around good time. Many first time attendees were present which added to the fun, and soon glasses were clinking, and comments (lies) like, “you really look great” were filling the room.

A brief opening ceremony took place on the lawn outside the hospitality suite at around 6:00 P.M., when Jim Miller welcomed everyone to Tucson. Jim then honored those brothers that have gone before us by presenting a permanent plaque in their honor. Each person was to then pay tribute in their own time and own way. The last piece of official business was to have each first time attendee sign the Association banner. This was difficult, since we were outside and the banner was on the wall in the “John Wayne,” hospitality suite. However each “newk” promised to sign in, so we were officially under way.

Dave Wrench, our host, then covered what we would be doing for the next four days, as well as some handy little “do’s and don’ts” that would/could make the whole thing run smoother.....“when I say 9:00 A.M. for the bus, that means 9:00 A.M.!” © We then all filed back into the hospitality suite for a delicious buffet meal, several more drinks, more getting reacquainted, and last but not least a “chicken dance” put on by none other then Christa Rickels and Christa Retz.

Attendees include:

Dieter Badenbach	Don Belanger	Jim & Hildegard Bell
Dave, Marion & Jeff Black	Carl & Delores Dalcher	John Dinwiddie
Fred & Jacqueline Dwight	Bob Edgerton & Lynn Knott	Dean & Pat Featherston
Dick & Geri Gauthier	Tom & Rita Gremling	Phil Hanley & Linda Eastman
Chuck & Pat Hartwig	Bill Hays	John & Hannelore Herd
Joe Hewitt & Susan Nutter	David & Mimi Hodge	William “Dixie” Howell
Jon & Judy Hunter	Joe & Marlitt Hurst	Tom & Besty Infante
Bernie McCollum	Art & Jane McEldowney	Ralph & Rosalie McEldowney
Dick & Janet McElhenie	John & Alice Mendelsohn	Don & Karin Meyer
Jim, Bonnie & Kim Miller	Ralph & Patti Myers	Tom & Judy Newhouse
Owen Norris	Fess & Nancy Parker	Dick Phegley & Mary Reed
Lenny & Sue Pittman	Mike & Christa Retz	John & Christa Rickels
Anne, Abe & Felix Saloma	Renate Setten & Patrick Diagle	Duain & Joyce Shaw
Mike & Penny Slattery	Darren Smith	Bob & Irmgard Swiecicki
Bruce & Penny Trier	Harry Walthall	Jack Weber
Cliff & Donna Wilcox	Troy Willson	Dave & Barbara Wrench

Monday The buses met us at 9:00 A.M.....that’s 9:00 A.M. for the beginning of a very busy day. First we were treated to an interesting motor coach tour of old Tucson, where one could see history pass by while viewing the old architecture. The oldest buildings were the adobe or pre-railroad type, followed by the more traditional types of architecture of the post railroad 1870’s. We then ventured on to the beautiful campus of the University of Arizona where old original buildings of the 1800’s were surrounded by the new modern buildings that make up today’s college campus.

From there we went to the Mission San Xavier Del Bac, where half of us (the fastest bus load) spent 20 minutes touring in and around the chapel and courtyards of the very quaint mission (est. 1768). The slower bus got to the Mission just in time to leave.....too much dilly-dallying at the potty break.

From there we all ventured to the Old Tucson Movie Studios for a guided tour of the place where hundreds of western movies have been shot. The guides would take the group by a building and say “this is where Dean Martin sobered up in Rio Bravo,” or “this is the street that Burt Lancaster and Kirk Douglas walked down on their way to the Gunfight at OK Corral.

Later there was a bizarre street scene when three rather intoxicated cowboys, Buck Sureshot, Luke Warmwater, and our own President Jamie Von Bierhoven, had to take out some “sodbuster” who was harassing our women folk and youngin’s.....he was laid to rest in Boot Hill later that day.

After the shootout we were escorted to the Grand Palace for a lunch of pulled pork or barbecued beef sandwiches, salads, and liquid refreshments. We then spent a couple of hours touring around the different venues including the Old Tucson Museum, and of course the @#\$\$! gift shop. We then hopped on the buses for the trip back to the hotel.

Later that evening we were all treated to a fantastic Mexican meal at La Fuentes Restaurant while being serenaded by a very large and very loud Mariachi band. Margaritas flowed by the pitcher, and a good time was had by all. We then were bused back to the hotel during a small rain storm, but as they say in Tucson, it was a very dry and non-humid rain storm.

The rest of the evening was spent in the hospitality suite watching a number of fantastic videos that John Herd has produced over the years. John, our archivist, has amassed hundreds of still pictures, all set to music, as well as several movie videos of past reunions. Bernie McCollum, with Asbach in hand, was the official narrator of each and every picture/video that went by.....thank you Bernie.

Tuesday Again the buses met us at 9:00 A.M.... that's 9:00 A.M. for a trip to the Pima Air & Space Museum. The first order of business was a guided tour (while still on our buses) of the acres upon acres of old airplanes from pre-WWII to the present. Our expert guide, himself a retired navy pilot, was very knowledgeable about each and every airplane, and could also interject many personal stories about his years "flyin Hellcats off carriers from hell to breakfast." It was kind of a guy thing, but the girls enjoyed it a little I think.

We then had some free time to cruise around the grounds and take in some of the more famous airplanes that are part of the museum. The last propeller driven presidential aircraft (Air Force 1) which President Kennedy flew in was very interesting, especially his "communications center" and of course the Marilyn Monroe bunk bed.....just kidding. General Eisenhower's old Constellation the "Columbine" was there as well as the supersonic mach 4, SR71 Blackbird.

Around lunch time we all went into "Hanger 3" for a very nice meal under the wing of an old WWII B24 bomber, which had been completely restored and looked brand new. Then it was off to the Air Force Bone Yard at Davis Monthan AFB for more airplanes. Again we toured around in our buses over miles and miles of mothballed/surplus airplanes, some used for spare parts, others destined for the scrap heap. While I can't speak for everyone, that's about as many airplanes as this old guy can take in one day, so the end of the tour was welcomed.

After returning to the hotel, the Association meeting was held in the hospitality suite, and was spirited to say the least. The first order of business was the election of officers, and Jim Miller was again unanimously re-elected President. Harry Walthall was installed as Vice President - Treasurer, and will assume the responsibility of the Association account.

Next Jim Miller gave a Treasury report that gave us a picture of where our funds (dues) have gone since the Associations beginnings. It was decided that because of potential upcoming expenditures, (website, aging membership, etc.), the annual dues should be raised to \$25. Further, \$5 of these future dues will be earmarked as an annual gift to the Kinderheim in Lübeck.

Last, but certainly not least was the discussion of the next reunion location for 2007. Madison, Wisconsin had been voted in during our last reunion in New Orleans, and after all were heard, carried the day again. Don Johnson, although not present, will still be our host, with Cliff Wilcox, and Don Belanger volunteering to help in any way they can. Don's daughter and son-in-law, Anne & Abe Saloma, were present for this reunion and I'm sure now have insight on how to plan for the mob of old farts that will be descending on Madison in a couple of years.

The location for the 2009 reunion was discussed with no decision being reached. Three possibilities were brought up, a cruise (Mexican, Alaskan, Caribbean), New York, or one last trek to Lübeck. The membership will stew on these suggestions for six months or so, and will be polled for a consensus later in 2006.

The rest of the day was free time, with dinner out of pocket, followed by more "chicken dancing," video viewing, wine and Asbach proasting, in the renamed Bill Hays/Bernie McCollum hospitality suite.

Wednesday After a morning off, we boarded the buses for one last time and drove through the colorful Saguaro National Park, on our way to the Arizona Sonora Desert Museum. We strolled, at our leisure, over the winding paths of the Museum, taking pictures and enjoying the desert atmosphere. The Museum has done a fantastic job of showing indigenous animals, in their natural setting, without many visible barriers. There were mountain lions, black bears, several smaller cats, such as the bobcat, coyotes, javalina (wild boar), a colony of prairie dogs, and a huge aviary of hummingbirds.....oh yeah later there was a bar serving "prickly pear margaritas," you can't get any more "desert" then that.

As the sun was setting in the western sky, we all filed into the Ironwood Terraces for a delicious meal, wine, and the biggest piece of chocolate cake this side of the Pecos. After the meal Dave & Barbara Wrench were presented with a very beautiful Mata Ortiz vase, in appreciation for all the hard work and planning that went into this unforgettable reunion.

The night and reunion ended where it began, in the hospitality suite, where tearful goodbye's and "see ya in '07" could be heard throughout. By any measure this reunion was a smashing success, maybe the best ever. This was reflected in the faces and comments of the first timers like Don Belanger, Dick McElhenie, Duain Shaw, David Hodge, who said "I wish I had known about these reunions sooner," or my favorite, "I'm bringing the wife to the next one." Anyway we only have 700+ days to go before we again can abuse some poor hospitality suite in Madison, Wis. Jim Miller

THE "FANDANGLE" IN THE DESERT

(As seen and **TYPED** through the eyes of our roving reporter Jack Weber)

SWEET JESUS, I HAVE NEVER SEEN SO MANY CACTUSESESES (CACTI) IN MY LIFE. LITTLE PUNY ONES, UGLY ROTTEN ONES, TALL SKINNY ONES, SHORT STOCKY ONES AND ONE PRICKLY HUMONGOUS ONE THE SIZE OF XXXXXXL "DENNY ZWINGLI STRASSE" GEMMELL. WHAT A DESERT!

ONE THING HOWEVER, WHERE THE HELL WERE ALL OF THOSE WILD INDIANS? MY FAITHFUL LIL' ALGONQUIAN COMPANION, BECKS BELANGER, WAS GETTING OH SO SAD AND LONELY LOOKING FOR HIS LONG LOST WESTERN FEATHER HEADED KIN. ALAS, TO NO AVAIL. I ASSURED HIM THAT THEY WERE BUSY WORKING IN THEIR WEE LITTLE JEWELRY FACTORIES PUMPING OUT "THEM THAR INJUN" ARTIFACTS.

MY OTHER DESPERADO SIDEKICK, TUG WILLSON, THE ONE AND ONLY IOWA-MISSISSIPPI GAMBLER WAS ANOTHER STORY. EVEN THOUGH THE HURRICANES HAD RAVAGED HIS AREA OF THE SOUTH, HE MADE THE TRIP TO TUCSON, GUNS A BLAZING! BY THE WAY, TUG, BECKS AND I WERE QUITE PUT OUT THAT THE REWARD FOR OUR CAPTURE, AS SHOWN ON THE WANTED POSTERS POSTED AROUND THE HOSPITALITY ROOM, WAS ONLY 2-BITS FOR THE THREE OF US COLLECTIVELY. OK, WHO HAS THE QUARTER? FESS UP! (NO, I DON'T MEAN FESS PARKER) THE MORE THAT I THINK ABOUT THIS SITUATION, I MIGHT CONTACT MY PERSONAL ATTORNEY, DON TOMASO INFANTE, AND HAVE HIM LOOK INTO THIS MATTER. WHAT SAY YOU TO THIS FOLKS!

THE TOOOO-SAHN "FANDANGLE" WAS A WINNER - THE CITY OF TUCSON, THE MANY INTERESTING TOURS, THE FOOD (NOT YOU RICHARD), THE HOTEL, THE BEER, THE WHISKEY & WINE, JOHN HERD'S SLIDES AND MOVIES, THE PICTURE COMMENTARIES BY "BOOZIE BERNIE" AND SGT. HAYS, THE FAST RECOVERY OF JIM BELL, THE BACK FLIP OFF OF HIS CHAIR OF ROTHWESTEN'S "CHAMPEEN" HIGH DIVER - OWEN NORRIS, ALL OF THE LUBECK ASSOCIATION LADIES, DICK PHEGLEY'S BEAUTIFUL DAUGHTER MARY (SHE SAID THAT SHE SWORE AND DRANK, THUS SHE PASSED THE TEST FOR MEMBERSHIP), BABY FELIX AND HIS PARENTS FROM MADISON (THE KID TOLD ME THAT HE WAS, IN REALITY, A CONSERVATIVE), ALL OF THE OTHER GUESTS AND, OF COURSE, THE MEN OF COMPANY B - 319TH ASA BN. HEY BERNIE, I SAW YOU SEVERAL TIMES IN THE MOVIES AND PHOTOS. DID YOU SEE YOURSELF? ALSO OUR DEAR MS. KIMBERLY MILLER (THE EX-HURRICANE KID) IS NOW OFFICIALLY CHRISTENED THE NEW "MARGARITA MAMA" OF TUCSON. SHE HAD TWO DOUBLE LARGE ONES AT DINNER THE SECOND NIGHT. LOOK OUT!

BY THE WAY, DID ANYONE FIND MY DETAILED NOTES THAT I CONSCIENTIOUSLY WROTE DOWN COVERING THE NOMENCLATURE OF ALL OF THE TYPES OF MILITARY AIRCRAFT DURING THE BUS TOUR OF THE "BONE YARD?" GOD KNOWS I WAS TRYING TO KEEP UP WITH THE TOUR GUIDE'S COMMENTARY. ALL I REMEMBER WAS A WHOLE BUNCH OF "F, B & PBV" SOMETHINGS AND "ATTACK" WHATEVERS AND SUCH. YA GOTTA LOVE THOSE PLANES!

INTERESTINGLY, MANY OF US REMARKED HOW THIS REUNION WAS A FULFILLING EXPERIENCE DUE TO THE FACT THAT WE HAD MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE FROM THE EARLY FIFTIES TO THE LAST YEARS OF THE LÜBECK SITE. I THINK THAT EVEN I, THE OLD HULKSTER, MADE SOME NEW LIFELONG PALS. I HOPE SO.

MY THANKS TO WAVY DAVY AND BARBARA WRENCH, THE MILLER CLAN, THE BLACK FAMILY MOBSTERS, AND ALL OF YOU OTHER FOLKS WHO WORKED SO HARD TO MAKE THIS THE PREMIER REUNION OF THE NEW MILLENNIUM.

A PERSONAL OBSERVATION: MAN ALIVE, THOSE ROTHWESTEN GUYS HAVE HARD HEADS!

WE WERE ALL WAITING FOR OWEN TO DO A FRONT PIKE ONTO HIS TABLE. EVER SO COMPASSIONATELY, I DID GO OVER AND TELL HIM THAT EVEN THOUGH I WAS ONLY GYNECOLOGIST, I COULD TRY TO REPAIR HIS BROKEN HAIR. HELL, HE DIDN'T EVEN HAVE A BUMP ON THAT OLD MELON OF HIS!

A SPECIAL THANKS TO GOODBACK HARRY, OUR NEW VOLUNTEER “VICE” PRESIDENT (HARRY HAS HAD EXPERIENCE IN THE VICE DEPARTMENT) AND TREASURER, FOR CARTING BECKSIE BELANGER, DIXIE AND ME AROUND IN HIS DIGITALLY LOADED CHEVY VAN ON WEDNESDAY NIGHT (FREE NIGHT). WE WENT TO DINNER AT A PLACE WALLY SAID HE KNEW ABOUT. CHADS - IT WAS A BEAUTY. IT WAS ONLY A HOOT AND A HOLLER FROM THE HOTEL. SO SAID HARRY. I THINK IT TOOK TWO HOURS TO GO ABOUT 4 MILES. HE HAD A FEW OTHER SITES OF INTEREST ALONG THE WAY TO SHOW US.

MY WARM REGARDS TO YOU GUYS AND LOVE TO ALL OF THE GIRLS. ALSO, THANKS TO MINI-HULK (JEFF BLACK) FOR SHOOING AWAY ALL OF THOSE TUCSON TOUGH GUYS FROM MY BONES. WHAT A BODYGUARD

DO SVEDANYA! I SALUTE YOU ALL.

THE HULKAMANIAC – JACK (ONLY A CORPORAL IN THE GAME OF LIFE)

Kudos' To our hosts Dave & Barbara Wrench

Davie and Barbara,
Just a note to tell you how much we enjoyed the reunion there in Tucson. It was the first time that Donna had seen the desert in Arizona, so it was a new experience for her.....
.....Anyway, from all of us (Carl, Delores, Dieter, Donna, and me) many thanks for the great time!!
See you in Wisconsin!
Cliff

.....We had a great time in Tucson.
Thank you for what must have been a great deal of time and energy that you contributed.....
.....If not before,,,,,,, see you in Madison,
Dean and Pat Featherston

Dear Dave & Barbara
What a great reunion. Thanks again for all you did in planning and arrangements. Everything was so perfectly thought out. The venues were interesting and entertaining, the weather was perfect, and the company exceptional.
Jackie and Fred Dwight

Christa and I had a great time and Dave and Barbara did a great job. The tours, meals et cetera were appropriate and it was good seeing all of you people again. Thank for all the effort that they put in. I wish that I had the energy to do it myself. Look forward to seeing all of you again.

Mike and Christa Retz

.....Jim, I must say, as a first time reuner, I can't believe how friendly and warm everybody was. They accepted me as if they had known me all their lives. Not only the guys, but the women. I felt so comfortable with everyone. Dave went above and beyond what was expected. I can't believe that this whole thing came together as well as it did. It seemed so effortlessly, but I know a whole lot of work went into the whole project..... Alice & Jack Mendelsohn

I had a very good time and really enjoyed myself in Tucson. Plan to see all in Madison in 07 if the Good Lord so sees fit. Hope all of the crew from Tucson shows up along with many of the missing Lubeckers. Thanks to all for a good time.

WILLIAM Howell 'DIXIE'

Well, I surmise that all of the Tucson Reunion attendees made it home safely.....
..... I, for one, had a great time. Many thanks to Barbara and Dave Wrench for all of the work they did to make it a success. Barb was cool and Davey only a little hyper. Maybe some "Ritalin", if you dare do it again! Actually, it must be a real chore looking after a big bunch like us. Good job, Dave! Love your house!

Bill Hays

Had a great time. Renewed some lost friendships, learned a few things that were fuzzy after forty some years. Made some new friends. Hope to see everyone in Madison in 07.

Tom & Rita Gremling

Howdy! Abe, Felix and I wanted to extend a hearty Wisconsin THANKS to all of you who made us feel welcome amidst your reunion and festivities. Initially, we weren't sure how we'd be received without Don and Norma, but our fears were unsubstantiated. All of you were pleasant and inclusive, and made me and my family feel right at home. Thank you so much for the kindness and hospitality! We look forward to seeing you here in 2 years!

Anne (Johnson) Saloma

In Memoriam:

Ralph Pickthorn passed away in the later months of 2004, unfortunately we have no other details.

Darrell Butler passed away at the age of 64 after a brief bout with lung cancer. After Lübeck, Darrell stayed in the National Guard for almost 30 years, graduated from John Hopkins University, and the University of Baltimore Law School. He worked for Armco Steel for 25 years in the Human Resources Department. Darrell is survived by his wife Barbara, his sister Yvonne of Baltimore, his son Eric Butler, and three grandchildren.

Harlin Hanson passed away in his home town of Portland Oregon, he was 82. Harlin was the "first shirt" to many or most of the Lübeckers that were station in that fair city, and on more then one occasion "chipped the concrete off our shoes," by acting as a buffer between the enlisted and the officers. He was a veteran of Omaha Beach (D-Day +1), and the Korean conflict.

Jack Murray An old "seven double deuce" from the 1957 timeframe passed away after a long and brave battle against stomach cancer. Jack was a career soldier, a loving father and husband to Gloria, as well as an avid children's book collector. He and "Glo" recently returned to Lübeck (late 2004) for vacation, a trip they both really enjoyed. Jack's claim to fame while in Lübeck; he trained a "just off the boat newk" named Mike Janicki. He will be missed.

New Members: Since a year ago our ranks have grown slightly, with 10 new members (or re-found members) being added to our ranks. Their complete "dossier," I.E. MOS and years of service in Lübeck can be found on the roster that was published recently. We all hope that one day these new recruits will be able to attend one of our bi-annual reunions and renew some old acquaintances.

Please welcome: John & Janice Cherba, John & Sue Foens, David & Shirley Gurney, David & Mimi Hodge, John & Mary Hollihan, Cornelius "Neil" & Linda Leahey, Scott Messenger, Ted Shepherd, Tony & Maureen Stevens, and Tony & Barbara Turk.

Presidential Poop

(from the oval orifice of Jim Miller)

Dues: As stated in the business part of the reunion article, our annual dues have been raise to \$25. If what the Association does is important to you, we would appreciate your help. Please mail your checks, made out to the **Lübeck Association**, to Harry Walthall, 1610 Meadowlark Lane #716, Lancaster, TX 75146. (the umlaut is optional).

Website: We are planning on spending some of the above mentioned dues to update and modernize our website. Details will be published as we get further down the road, but as envisioned, the “page” will have an all new format with “tabs” to click on. There will be a “reunion” tab that will have pictures from each of the 12 national reunions dating back to Savannah 1982. A “people” tab with all the John Herd pictures (as well as many others) from as far back as 1954. Others will be “places, guest book, events, etc.” As I mentioned above, more about this will be announced as the website unfolds.

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