



# The Straphanger Gazette



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**“Aerial Rocket Artillery”**....when called on by those who were in danger, our units were there laying it on the line.

We were proud of our Aerial Rocket Artillery Team then and still proud of it now.

The Straphanger Gazette is a quarterly publication of the Aerial Rocket Artillery Association. Issues will be published on or about the 1st of January, April, July and October. Members who have e-mail will receive a copy as an pdf attachment



## President's Corner

### THE ARA ROCKS PORTLAND

It was a great adventure to drive from the east coast to Portland Oregon, the base for this year's reunion. Our reunion hosts, Herb and Cindy Hirst, arranged wonderful tours, fine accommodations, and provided excellent suggestions for experiencing Portland.

As has become custom, Wednesday was the time to report in to the Benson Hotel (base camp). Attending this years event were 28 Aerial Rocket Artillery members accompanied by 23 wives. Many friendships were renewed and new ones made. Being the first reunion on the west coast we had the pleasure of meeting members and wives who had not been able to attend earlier reunions.

Although the first night's meal was scheduled to be "on your own" most of us followed Herb's (our "man about Portland") recommendation to eat at "Jakes Famous Crawfish Seafood Restaurant". The owner recognized our contingent by providing us with a complimentary crab cake. It so happened that the chef was a Marine Vietnam Veteran and took time to speak with many of our members. The camaraderie was outstanding.

On Thursday as we deployed to the coast, the "dry" rain of Portland was threatening. The tour guide informed us about the various agriculture farms, scenic vistas and vineyards on our way to the coast.



By some miracle, Huey O'Dell, Bill Rathisberger, Mike Russell, and Regina Moberly escaped guilt by association with Larry.  
Photo by Cecil H.

We arrived in Cannon Beach and experienced the now sunny west coast weather as we strolled the beach and quaint streets. Herb warned us repeatedly not to turn our backs to the ocean because of the potential of a rogue wave hitting us with debris. Of course we did not listen as we walked the beach at low tide and had a great view of the Sea Stack. Many of us also visited the small shops and galleries. Of course we helped the local economy by purchasing interesting souvenirs. Then we were off to tour the Tillamook Cheese factory. We saw tons of cheese being processed, sliced and diced, and packaged. All of our cheesiest questions were answered. We tasted a wide variety of cheeses and took the opportunity to eat some of their delicious ice cream and fudges. That evening, in the hospitality suite, we debriefed with other members who had toured various Portland sites and downed a few beverages.

On Friday Herb and Cindy had again arranged for a sunny day for our tour of the Columbia River Gorge. Our tour guide was very knowledgeable and expounded upon the history of the exquisite scenery we were viewing. We stopped at the Vista House, where we took multiple group photos. Our next stop was Multnomah Falls (second highest year-round falls in the country) where we ate lunch. Some of our group took the path to the Benson footbridge for a more intense experience. We continued our journey to the Bonneville Dam where we monitored "the fish counter" and counted at least one Salmon using the fish ladder while we were there.

Again, that evening, we had many lively discussions about our ARA experiences, our families and other life events since our service with ARA.

In the morning, we held the General Membership Board meeting. At this meeting new board members were elected. The Board now consists of “Yours truly”, Vice President Glenn Brown, Secretary Huey O’Dell and Treasurer Jule Szabo. Doc Talbot, Editor and Bruce Wilder, Chaplain, remain from the previous Board. Jesse Hobby has moved on to Immediate Past President. We recognize the countless efforts of the previous board to ensure this Association continues on a solid and professional footing.



Rodger and Marilyn McAlister add a little class to an otherwise raucous brawl.  
Photo by Cecil H.

On Saturday afternoon, many of us walked to Portland’s “Saturday Market”. There was “Superman” posing for pictures along side of street dancers, and hundreds of food, clothing, jewelry and art vendors. A lot of west coast sights were on hand to keep you amazed about the Oregonians. Every type and genre of cuisine was available for food stalls.

As the “friendly new guy,” I am humbled by the honor to be the president of this Aerial Rocket Artillery Association. I know that our collective experiences were unique in Army Aviation and served as a model for future development of Attack Helicopter tactics. The success of these units is based upon the honor and dedication of every one who ever served with them. To this end, I hope we can encourage more former members to contact each other, join the Association and enjoy our comradeship at future reunions.

Saturday evening’s farewell dinner started with a wonderful musical rendition by the Brown Sisters honoring all veterans. Our speaker told us about the mission of the Evergreen Aviation and Space Museum “To inspire, educate, promote and preserve aviation and space history, and honor the patriotic service of our veterans”. Amazing how many of the museum’s mission points we fall under. He also described how they obtained, transported and maintained the “Spruce Goose”.

Also attending the dinner was a former FAC pilot Larry Diebert, and his wife Suzanne, Larry was the guest of Gene and Ellie Wilson. He and Gene served together in the 220th Aviation Company in the early days of Vietnam.

Before lift off on Sunday many had breakfast together. We said our farewells and are looking forward to next year’s reunion in Hershey PA in June.

Cecil Hengeveld  
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## **PAST PRESIDENT’S REPORT – REUNION 2012**

***Editor’s Note: The reunion was such a blast that there are so many details and incidents that Jesse may seem repetitive but every detail was worth the review.***

It has been an honor and a privilege to have served as President of the Association for the past two years and I now get to move on to the position of Immediate Past President as Cecil Hengeveld assumes the office of President. And, while Cecil is getting the feel of being President and Chairman for the 2013 ARA Reunion, I will make a report for our Portland Reunion.

Reunion 2012, like previous reunions, was a great success thanks to the efforts of Herb and Cindy Hirst. We had twenty-eight members and twenty-three wives and guests reporting in between May 23 and May 27. Some got there late, some came only for a day or two and some who lived in the local area actually commuted to the hotel. For whatever time they were there, it was for one reason – to be with old friends and comrades. That’s what a reunion is for.

Wednesday (May 23) was the official sign in day and it was spent meeting with old friends and meeting new ones. Some of the first timers were “Tony” and Isabel Quesada, James and Gloria Flemming, and David and Roberta Cooper. The locals who came, Bob Anderson and Bob Tessier, were also first timers. While it was supposed to be “dinner on your own,” most of us made our way to “Jakes Famous Crawfish and Seafood” for some truly memorable seafood. The “Dungeness Crab” sautéed with mushrooms, artichoke hearts, and shallots in a buttery wine sauce quickly became the favorite. We then made our way back to the hotel lounge or hospitality suite for an evening of camaraderie and fellowship – sharing memories of time in distant places and/or other reunions and sharing a few drinks before calling it a day.



Herb Hirst shares pre-assault intelligence in the Hospitality Suite.  
Photo by Asa Talbot

Thursday was our first tour. We boarded the bus and departed for Cannon Beach, on the North Oregon Coast. Everyone on board enjoyed seeing the lush rain forest growth and the beautiful Pacific Coast. We had lunch in Cannon Beach, toured the shops and galleries, walked on the beach, and took pictures of Haystack Rock (the largest of the “Sea Stacks”) before boarding the bus for a drive down the coast to Tillamook for a tour of the world famous Tillamook Cheese Factory. Another buying and eating opportunity of cheese and ice cream. Then back to Portland and the hotel. Again, it was dinner on your own and another evening of socializing.



Multnomah Falls

Friday was our second bus tour. This time we went up the Columbia River Gorge, the fourth largest river in the country. Again we viewed the lush forests and some of the most beautiful waterfalls in the country including Latournell, Shepard Dells, Horsetail, and Multnomah Falls (second highest in the country). After lunch at the Multnomah Lodge it was on to Bonneville Dam where we observed the fish ladders, which allow spawning Salmon to make their way back up river. Our arrival back in Portland was earlier than the previous day so we made our way up to the hospitality suite for the rest of the afternoon. After dinner we gathered in the lounge or the suite.

Saturday morning was wives day at the City Market. While they were out shopping the guys met for the annual business meeting. After the standard opening the Secretary and Treasurer reports were given and approved. Moving on to Association the following items were covered: Initiating contact with the Field Artillery Museum at Ft. Sill, OK to ensure that ARA is duly recognized as an integral part of Field Artillery; Interest in T-Shirts for future reunions; Update of 15<sup>th</sup> Annual ARA Reunion to be held in Hershey, PA in mid June of 2013 (details to follow as they are finalized); Also discussed need for increased advertising that emphasizes that all members of any ARA unit are invited; Approval of the By- Laws changes which were published in the Oct/Nov/Dec issue of the newsletter in accordance with Article IX of the Association By-Laws. We also had to decide where to hold Reunion 2014 and who would host it. There being no volunteers it was decided that the BOD would assume responsibility for the reunion. Suggested locations were Pensacola, FL, Dayton, OH, Ft. Rucker, AL and Ft. Benning, GA.

This being an election year, the BOD then stood down and turned the meeting over to Gene Wilson and Bob Furney, the election committee. They did an outstanding job and the new slate of Officers is: Cecil Hengeveld – President, Jesse Hobby – Immediate Past President, Glenn Brown – Vice President, Huey O’Dell – Secretary, Jule Szabo – Treasurer, and Asa Talbot – Editor. Bruce Wilder continues as spiritual leader. The new BOD then took over, and there being no further business the meeting was adjourned.

The afternoon was spent doing individual tours, shopping, and socializing. We gathered in the Banquet Room in the evening for drinks, appetizers, and camaraderie. We also had entertainment before dinner provided by the Brown Sisters. The speaker for the event was Larry Wood, the Executive Director of the Evergreen Air and Space Museum, who gave a very informative audio/visual presentation of the “Spruce Goose” which is housed in the museum after relocation from San Diego, CA. It was a fascinating account of the giant airplane that was constructed during the latter years of WW2. It was 95% wood construction and Birch was the primary wood used. Powered by eight (8) R4360 engines it flew only once in 1947. Equally fascinating was the story of its storage and maintenance until the move to McMinnville, OR. After dinner most of us spent the rest of the evening in the hospitality suite enjoying our remaining time together.



Jesse and Gloria Hobby manned the “Spruce Goose” at the Evergreen Museum and say it will never fly.

This year, in lieu of a gift, a donation will be made to the Wounded Warrior Project to honor our host and hostess, Herb and Cindy Hirst.

Sunday morning, as usual, was the time to say goodbye for another year as most people departed for home. We all look forward to gathering in Pennsylvania next year for what promises to be another great reunion.

## The Vice President follows up:

Last year I shared with the membership the state of Odessa, TX and the surrounding area. We had celebrated a great reunion there in 2009 and I am glad we did it then. The year 2011 found west Texas in the throes of a terrible drought, and wildfires were stretching firefighting resources to the maximum. In May 2011 there had been but 0.11 inches of rain and brown was the only color seen..

Today Odessa is one inch over the average annual rainfall, the land has come back to the appearance we know and love. Due to the extraordinary efforts of the surrounding fire fighters, property damage was minimal.

However, the big change has been an arising of a “boom Town” in the finest sense. An average hotel room is running in excess of \$200 a night. The rooms are filled with energy industry workers willing to pay top dollar because they are earning top dollar. The restaurants are packed and there are long lines waiting. Don’t even think about a 10% tip. The streets are jammed with the biggest, most powerful (and expensive ) trucks the American auto industry can produce, all going somewhere with a great deal of purpose, business and money-making purpose. All the estimates of time from one place to the other must be doubled because of traffic.

The simple truth is that the energy producing industry of fossil fuel is stoking a stagnant economy, creating taxable revenues, jobs and has raised Texas to the level of one of the most popular retirement areas in the US. On the other hand, there are the green communities of the west coast who are struggling against bankruptcy and insolvency.

It would appear that the solution to our “recession” is to step back and let the American “can do” and “know-how” do what it does best. We have the resources and the possibilities. We need only to do it.

By the way, you never see a Chevy Volt on the streets of Odessa.

N.G. Brown

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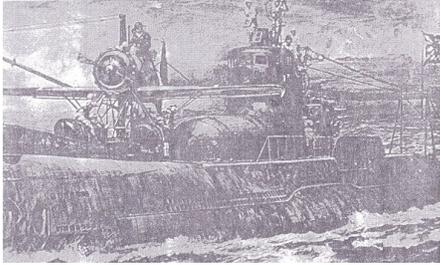
# THERE IS SO MUCH WE NEVER KNEW, WERE NOT INTENDED TO KNOW, AND DID NOT KNOW UNTIL LONG AFTER THE FACT.

*Editor’s Note: During World War II President Roosevelt called the venerable newscaster Elmer Davis to Washington to set up the Office Of Strategic Information (OSI). This was no less than a censorship machine which carefully controlled all the information emanating from the front and being distributed to the media of America. No report from a war correspondent or military figure was exempt from the scrutiny of OSI, and many lives were saved by stopping leaks before they could occur. Before we scream violation of constitutional rights remember we were at war and the safety of our troops was at stake, plus the delicate balance of home morale and the need-to-know. Eventually when it was safe to release certain news it was made available. General Schwartzkoff used this principle effectively during the Gulf War. Unfortunately, it was not used during Korea, Vietnam, or Desert Storm, with disastrous results.*

*The following story (contributed by Jesse Hobby) is a good example of not telling all you know and creating panic. (Remember Orson Welles’ Mercury Theatre program “The War of the Worlds”).*

On September 9, 1942, an I-25 class Japanese submarine was proceeding on an easterly course toward the US west coast, its periscopes rising occasionally to reflect the rays of the ensuing dawn. It was less than a year since Japan had attacked Pearl Harbor and the Captain of the attack sub knew the Americans were watching for ships and aircraft which might be a danger. The mission for this ship was to attack the west coast with incendiary bombs starting a devastating forest fire. If this daring feat were successful the plan was to use the huge Japanese fleet of I-400 submarines, each capable of carrying three aircraft, to strike the eastern end of the Panama Canal and disrupt shipping from the Atlantic to the Pacific.

Below decks, Pilot Chief Warrant Officer Nobuo Fujito, and his crewman, Petty Officer Shoji Okuda, pored over their charts so they coincided with those of the submarine's navigator.



Aboard the submarine the Captain's voice boomed over the PA system, "Prepare to surface, aircrew report to your stations, wait for the open hatch signal". (During training runs several subs had been lost when the hanger doors were opened prematurely and sea water flooded the compartments and sank the ships with all hands lost.) Now the sounds of the ship changed as the nose broke the surface and tipped over for its run toward the coast. The "All Clear" clanged and the crew of the single engine Yokosuka E14Y float equipped observation and light attack aircraft completed their tasks. They rolled the aircraft from the hanger next to the conning tower, unfolded the wings and tail and attached several 176 pound incendiary bombs to the hard points under the wings.

It was now daylight and the Captain ordered the small two passenger float plane with a nine cylinder 340 hp radial engine on to the catapult. Warrant Officer Fujita started the engine, let it warm up, checked the magnetos and oil pressure. There was a slight breeze, calm seas and a perfect day to attack the USA. With his instruments in the green the pilot signaled and the catapult launched the aircraft. After a short climb to altitude the plane turned to a heading toward the Oregon Coast.

The morning of September 9, 1942 found Nebraska forestry student Keith V. Johnson on duty atop a forest fire lookout tower between Gold's Beach and Brookings, OR. Like so many of those who remained at home, Johnson had memorized the silhouettes of Japanese long distance bombers and our own aircraft. He was confident he could spot and identify friend or foe almost immediately. The morning was cold and quiet. Most people were still asleep or preparing to go to work. Lumber was a mainstay in Brookings, just a few miles north of the California and Oregon state lines.

Johnson was sweeping the horizon but could see nothing. He went back to his duties as a forestry agent, which was searching for any signs of a forest fire. The morning moved on. Every few moments he would scan low, medium and high, but nothing caught his eye. The small Japanese float plane had climbed to several thousand feet of altitude for better visibility, and to get above the coastal fog. The pilot had calculated landfall in a few minutes, and right on schedule, he could see the breakers flashing white as they hit the Oregon shore.

Johnson was about to put his binoculars down when something flashed in the sun just above the fog bank. It was unusual because in the past all air traffic had been flying up and down the coast, not aiming into the coast. The pilot of the aircraft checked his course and alerted his observer to be on the lookout for a fire tower which was on the edge of the wooded area where they were supposed to drop their bombs. These aircraft carried very little fuel and all flights were in and out without any loitering. The plane reached the shoreline and the pilot made a course correction 20 degrees north. The huge trees were easy to spot and certainly easy to hit with the bombs. The fog was very wispy by this time.

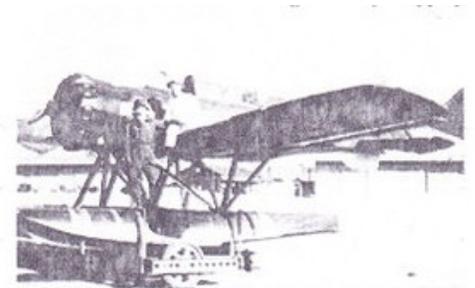
Johnson watched in awe as the small float plane with a red "meatball" on the wings flew overhead; it was not a bomber and there was no way it could have flown across the Pacific. Johnson could not understand what was happening. He locked on to the plane and followed it as it headed inland.

The pilot activated the release locks so that when he was on target he could release the bombs. His instructions were simple—fly at 500 feet, drop the bombs into the trees, circle once to see if they had started any fires, and return to the submarine. Johnson could see the two bombs under the wing of the plane and knew that they would be dropped. He grabbed his communications radio and called the Forest Fires Headquarters, informing them of what he was watching unfold.

The bombs tumbled from the small seaplane and impacted the forest. The pilot checked once and spotted fire around the impact point. He executed a 180 degree turn and headed back to the submarine. There was no air activity, the skies were clear. The small float plane lined up with the submarine and landed gently on the ocean; then taxied to the sub. A long boom swung out from the stern. His crewman caught the cable and hooked into the pickup attached to the rollover cage between the cockpits. The plane was swung onto the deck where the wings and tail were folded and it was pushed into its hanger, securing the watertight doors. The I-25 submerged and headed back to Japan. This event, which caused no damage, marked the only time during WW II that an enemy plane had dropped bombs on the United States mainland. What the Japanese did not count on was that coastal fog, mist and heavy doses of rain made the forest so wet they simply would not catch fire.

In January of 1962 the Brookings Chamber of Commerce was looking for ways to promote the city. A suggestion was made to find the unknown pilot and invite him to be a guest for the Azalea Festival. The invitation was presented as gesture of international goodwill.

Controversy erupted immediately. Brookings was divided; petitions and letters both pro and con swamped the newspaper. Despite the



The only plane ever to drop a bomb on the US during WW II was this submarine based Glen. Warrant Officer Fujito with his Yokosuka E14Y (Glen) float plane prior to his flight.

opposition, the Jr. Chamber of Commerce voted the project a "GO." Support came from Oregon Governor Mark O. Hatfield – "If we who fought the Japanese are able to forgive, then I trust those few who have protested this invitation will reconsider." From President John F. Kennedy came congratulations to the Jaycees "for their efforts to promote international friendship and goodwill."

Donations were sought and enough received to extend the invitation to Mr. Fujita and his family.

Mr. Fujita was greatly saddened by being the center of so much controversy. He had become a pacifist and wanted only peace and understanding between our countries. Despite continued threat to his safety Mr. Fujita and his family were welcomed cordially by the residents of Brookings.

Mr. Fujita, with his son's consent, presented his family's 400 year old Samurai Sword to the city of Brookings. The sword had been with him on the raid in 1942 and throughout the war. "It is in the finest of Samurai traditions to pledge peace and friendship by submitting the sword to a former enemy." This genuine act of contrition and friendship has truly made the sword "a gift of peace."

The sword was on display for many years at the City Hall. When the sword's security became questionable, it was moved to the Mayor's office. In May of 1995 Mr. Fujita, now in failing health, returned one last time to Brookings, to move his sword to its new display case at the public library.



This Memorial Plaque is located in Brookings, OR at the site of the 1942 bombing.

#### **Additional Notes:**

According to another document the submarine surfaced off Cape Blanco in northern Curry County. Fujita and Okuda returned to the skies to drop more bombs on the Grassy Knob Wilderness. This bombing was not successful and no fires were started.

In 1985 with help from Time-Life, Sony and the Japanese Rotary, Mr. Fujita fulfilled a promise made in 1962. He sponsored three Brookings – Harbor High School students on a goodwill trip to Japan.

On September 8, 1992, a coastal redwood was planted by Mr. Fujita at the bombsite. It was his apology to the forest. "I offer my deepest prayers now for the repose of all those who died in the war...but, I pray too for this commemorative tree of friendship...and peace to live through hundreds of years, to grow into the tallest reflection of our mutual pledge for friendship and peace."

A State Historical Marker to the bombsite was dedicated on May 29, 1994.

Mr Fujita was made an Honorary Citizen of the City on September 22, 1997. He died eight days later, September 30, 1997. In October of 1998 some of his ashes were placed at the bombsite by his daughter.

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# Ladies of the Association

This will be my last column as the President's wife as I now turn this column over to Peggy Hengeveld. When I wrote my column for Charleston last year I said that I hoped everyone enjoyed it as much as I did. And once again I must say that I hope everyone enjoyed Portland as much as I did. I especially enjoyed the Dungeness Crab at "Jakes Famous Crawfish and Seafood." I could really get used to it. Beats the heck out of those little Blue Crabs we get on the Gulf Coast.

After 20 days of travel Jesse and I arrived in Portland a day early on May 22<sup>nd</sup> to get settled in and do some more sightseeing on our own. On our way in from the coast we stopped at McMinnville Oregon and toured the Evergreen Air and Space Museum. If you haven't seen it and you are in that vicinity again I highly recommend that you do. Sent Asa a few pictures to use in the Newsletter.

Arriving in Portland we found a few other early comers – Glenn and Linda Brown, Bill and Carol Retterath, and Asa and Jean Talbot. Getting reacquainted started early.



Herb Hirst came by a little later with the standard items for stocking a hospitality suite. The hospitality suite, which was also the hotel's Presidential Suite was quite nice as you can see from the photos.

Wednesday was official sign in Day and Marilyn McAlister and I staffed the sign-in desk and passed out name tags and packets. Once again it was nice to see old friends from previous reunions and greeting the new ones who were here for the first time. New wives were Isabel Quesada, Gloria Flemming, and Roberta Cooper. The hospitality suite was opened early so that people could gather there and socialize before going to dinner. A rather large group of us then descended on "Jakes" once again. While we were there the manager recognized our group of veterans, thanked everyone for their service, and provided appetizers for the group. A rather nice gesture and very much appreciated.

Thursday was our first tour and we got to see the beautiful North Oregon countryside and coast. Due to the abundant rainfall it is a lush rain forest, much like those of Central and South America, without the heat. Cannon

Beach, with its shops and studios was a nice stop for lunch and a great place to walk the beach and look out over the vast Pacific Ocean. The "Sea Stacks" were a most interesting sight, jutting up out of the ocean like hay stacks. The most famous is aptly named "Haystack Rock" and it is the third largest monolith in the world. I think the first two are Stone Mountain in Georgia and Ayers Rock in Australia. Our second stop was the Tillamook Cheese factory and then back to Portland. Dinner this evening was once again "on your own" and the group scattered to sample other restaurants.

Friday was our tour of the Columbia River Gorge. Again, we viewed the lush countryside that runs along both sides of the river and viewed some of the most beautiful waterfalls in the country. Lunch was at the Multnomah Lodge, situated next to Multnomah Falls, second highest waterfall in the country. We then travelled on to Bonneville Dam where we observed the elaborate fish ladders that enable the salmon to return upriver to the spawning ground and the equally elaborate measures taken to protect the fish from predatory birds, seals, and sea lions who feed upon them. We also learned that the seals and sea lions will climb onto barges and river craft and ride through the locks to get upriver.

Saturday morning was business meeting and election for the guys. We also got together as a group to get to



Presidential Bed occupied by ARA Wives

Left side front to rear – Roberta Cooper, Kathy O'Dell, Regina Mobley  
Center left – Gloria Hobby  
Center right – Patti Wilder  
Right side – front to rear Susan Jensen, Gloria Flemming, Arlene Pullano

know one another better and to welcome the new members of the group. Then, it was off to the Portland Saturday Market. Since it was only a short distance from the hotel, about 10 blocks (Portland blocks are short) we walked and talked. It was a truly interesting place, sort of a large flea market where you could find a wide variety of goods ranging from art and clothing to jewelry, plant and woodworks. Equally interesting were the people we encountered, especially the groups who approached us wanting us to sign their petition to legalize marijuana for medicinal purposes.

After spending time at the market we made our way back to the hotel and/or other places for lunch. The rest of the day was free time to do what we wanted to.

Saturday evening we gathered in the hotel banquet room for our final dinner of Reunion 2012. Entertainment was provided by the "Brown Sisters," a trio doing popular and patriotic songs a capella. There was an open bar and there were abundant appetizers prior to the fabulous dinner put on by the Benson Catering Department. Jesse gave his final speech as President, and Cecil made his first as President. After dinner our guest speaker, Larry Wood, Executive Director of the Evergreen Air and Space Museum presented an excellent slide show and narrative of the origin and mission of the Museum and the story of Howard Hughes' Flying Boat – "The Spruce Goose." Interesting parts of the presentation were how the Boeing 747 got on top of the museum's Water Park and how the "Spruce Goose" got from San Diego to the museum. Special guests of Gene and Ellie Wilson, Larry and Suzanne Deibert, were also introduced. Gene and Larry had served together in the 220<sup>th</sup> Aviation Company in I Corps, RVN, in 1967. Larry is now Civilian Aide to the Secretary of the Army. After dinner we gathered in the hospitality suite or hotel lounge for a final round of socializing before turning in.

On Sunday morning we gathered in the hotel breakfast area for last farewells as most of our friends departed for home. As was the case in Charleston in 2011 and the other reunions there were very few goodbyes. Once again the comment heard most often was "See you next year in Hershey." And on that happy note Reunion 2012 ended.

Gloria Hobby  
gloriahobby@yahoo.com



This was not the shortest landing ever made by a Boeing 747. The airplane was hoisted to the top of the building. Note the slides coming out and going down into the building to form waterslides. Would be a fantastic place to take kids and grandchildren.



## Chaplain's Corner "Keep the Faith"

I returned from our 15<sup>th</sup> ARA Reunion in Portland, OR, on Sunday, June 3, 2012, with a flight on Frontier Airline to Denver with a connecting flight the Knoxville, TN. While riding the friendly skies over our great nation, I began thinking about the past four years of life on the Board of Directors, simultaneously serving as the Chaplain, Vice President and later as the columnist for the 1<sup>st</sup> Cav Div's *Saber*. Much has happened to our association. In 2008 we set a new course for ourselves. With many members volunteering to serve in new positions recommended by the Founder, Russ Warriner, we renamed it the ARA Association, voted in a new Board of Directors, headed off to write new By-Laws, keeping the original purpose of our group as our guide.

There were times when we had to press hard to accomplish what the general membership was asking of us, but we persevered. We kept the faith.

That thought reminded me of the apostle Paul and his writings to Timothy when he speaks in Chapter 4, verse 6, "I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith."

It brought to mind the leadership of Rodger McAlister from the start out-of-the gate; the endurance and unwavering dedication of Jesse Hobby to masterfully author and pen the new by-laws, his focus on the membership, certificates, and a new web site; Larry Mobley's commitment to see our financial picture soar to new heights; Chuck Voeltz who stepped up as Secretary in Bozeman, MN, and kept us all on track with copious notes, superb minutes, and outstanding RV maintenance for those of us who traveled in caravans; and Asa Talbot who has a knack for publishing one of the most outstanding newsletters, *The Straphanger*, and keeping us healthy in mind and body. All of this made me proud to be a member of such a great organization whose members rally behind the Board and support the reunions, and contribute to overall goodwill and benefit of the group. Paul has another message for all of us; "As for you, always be steady, endure, and do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry, for there is laid up for you a crown of righteousness, which the Lord will award on the Day!"

May God bless you all, and a special blessing on our new Board.  
Peace,

Bruce Wilder  
Chaplain

*Editor's Note. The advantage the Editor has is to pick and choose what is published and to occasionally get the last word. Our dear friend and fellow worker Bruce Wilder has again spread love and praise to all but himself. We, the Board, did work hard to construct a framework for the future of the ARA. But be advised, this group was made up of definite individuals, with definite viewpoints and often it was the presence of Bruce that defused the inevitable tension. He has been irreplaceable as our spiritual mentor.*

*And the calming nature of our beloved wives also went far to make our meetings not only pleasant and fun, but decidedly non-lethal. Thanks Bruce!*

# REUNION 2012

## PEOPLE



The obligatory group photo taken on the Columbia River Gorge tour by Jule Szabo. The ladies are a big improvement.



Peggy Hengeveld, Regina Mobely, Larry, Cecil, Vern Estes and Jule socializing in the hospitality room.—Photo by Asa



Somebody has to work! Gloria and Marylyn meet and greet at the reception table. Photo by Asa



The crew chief and the pilot labor over those cursed mechanical objects.— Photo by Asa



Good to see Glenn smiling but look at that view of the Columbia River.—Photo by Asa

# Places



Our fearless President can always find a watering hole—Photo by Cecil H.



Entrance to the Chinese Garden—an authentic journey back in time to the home of a court scholar. Photo by Jean Talbot



A miniscule part of the three story Powell's Books where you can find anything you want to read and more. Photo by Jean Talbot



A replica of the Conestoga wagon which traversed the Oregon Trail and opened the west. This and much more more was in the Oregon Museum of History five blocks from the Benson. Photo by Jule Szabo



It is all a little cheesy but this is the processing line at the Tillamook Cheese Factory. The ladies received a brick of cheddar as their souvenir. It is good cheese.. Photo by Jule Szabo



If you don't like the weather in Portland; wait a few minutes and it will change. We had little rain but the rainbow is great. Photo by Jule Szabo



## AERIAL ROCKET ARTILLERY ASSOCIATION

### Membership Application

This form may be used for Applying for New Membership or for Renewing Existing Membership. Please circle that which is appropriate.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Wife's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Rank \_\_\_\_\_ Membership Number \_\_\_\_\_  
(At time of service in ARA) (If known)

Retired Rank (if applicable) \_\_\_\_\_ Service Number \_\_\_\_\_

#### List all ARA Units that you served in.

<u>Battery/Battalion</u>	<u>Dates of Service</u>	<u>Call Sign</u>
_____	From mo/yr to mo/yr	_____
_____	From mo/yr to mo/yr	_____

Current Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Street or PO Box

\_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
Home Work (if okay) Cell

E-Mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Association membership is on an annual basis (unless member opts for life membership) running from January 1 to December 31 and is past due on January 31.

Annual dues are \$25.00 regardless of when submitting.

Life membership (if paid in full) is \$250.00. Life membership may also be paid in \$50.00 installments on a quarterly basis until paid in full.

Total amount enclosed \_\_\_\_\_ (Please indicate in remarks section of check whether this is Initial Membership, Membership Renewal, Life Membership in full, Life Membership payment #.

Mail completed application to: Aerial Rocket Artillery Association  
C/O Jule Szabo  
5118 Brentwood Farm Drive  
Fairfax, VA 22030

For Office Use Only  
Check # \_\_\_\_\_  
Check Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Amount \_\_\_\_\_  
Date Rcvd \_\_\_\_\_

Web address – [www.araassociation.com](http://www.araassociation.com)