

KARAMURSEL 60-61

FEBRUARY 2001 NEWSLETTER

NOTE FROM THE EDITOR



Rudy Ruediger

I started writing this newsletter early in Dec and I realize it's not even winter yet but boy has the weather been weird thru out the country. We haven't gotten any snow up here in Massachusetts yet and we should have by now but I've gotten calls from Texas (Dick Lucas) and he was telling me it was 24 degrees that morning and I heard from Col Bruno down in Ky and he said it's been snowing for two days. I heard Atlanta is well below their normal temps, guess Ed Watts must be thinking about moving further south.

You'll notice I'm using a different format when writing this issue of the Newsletter. Hope you like it.

By now Pete Johnson has sent out a reminder about the 2011 dues. It usually goes out just after the new year and it will indicate if you owe dues or not and will include the 2011 membership card. If he got your membership currency incorrect, please give him a call at 704 243 6769 or 980 328 4150



The closing date for dues is 1 April 2011. Obviously you can pay dues anytime after that to maintain membership, but since we drop people from the records after that date, it creates lots more work to reenter you if you pay late. Gentle hint there that the sooner you pay your dues, the better.

NEW FINDS AND LOSSES

Here's a update of all the new survivors the group has located since the report of Oct 2010.

NEW FINDS

Raymond T Wilson, Ray was at Karamursel from 1959 to 1961 and was a 292x1 on Charlie Flight. Being there at that time means he was on duty the day that Gary Powers was shot down.

Ray lives in Manassas Virginia (20901) and on 10106 Tasher Cir. Phone 703-368-3801
His e-mail is ryrtw1@verizon.net

Charles F Jester, Charles was a Bulgarian Linguist while at Karamursel from 1961 to 1962.

When first located Charlie didn't remember which flight he was on but with some help from member John Scholl we learnt that he was on Dog flight and arrived at KAS July 61 after graduating from training at Syracuse Univ. Charlie was originally from Arizona but moved to Calif and worked as an Office Manager at a funeral home in Bakersfield Calif. He now resides at Lowell Drive, Bakersfield, Ca 93308 and his e-mail address is: jesterbg9560@yahoo.com and phone number is 661-399-3080

Cornice D. Grace was a 292 on Able Flight. He arrived in Karamursel in November 1960 and left in April 1962. He was discharged in California after serving four years in the Air Force. Cornice worked for UPS for a number of years. He now lives at 34 Desert Gallery St., Henderson, Nevada 89012. His phone number is 702-567-9185.

Kenneth W. Floerchinger Ken was in Personnel at Karamursel in 1960-61. After his four years in the Air Force Ken moved to California where he attended college. He spent his civilian career working in Personnel for IBM at various locations. He now lives at 561 W Silhouette Ridge Place, Oro Valley, AZ 85755-6555. His phone number is 520-219-4374.
Email: kfloerchinger@comcast.net.

John H. Bubenheim. He was stationed in Karamursel in 1959-61. He had extended his tour at Mainsite. He was a 29251, but he doesn't remember what flight he was on. He lives at 391 Scotts Bluff Place, Morgan Hill, California 95037.
Telephone: 408-778-9495. His email address is jbubenheim@hotmail.com

Alex "Rusty" Knitter. Rusty was at KAS with the USMC and lives at 7997 cty cc Rosholt, Wisc. 54473 E-mail dobb@wi-net.com

Chuck Benoit from 400 Essex St. South Hamilton, Mass. 01982-2509 phone number 978 314 9945. Chuck was a 20351 on Able flight while at KAS from Jan 61 to July 62. He and his wife live in Fl during the winter months and in Mass during the summer.

David Page was a Romanian linguist on Charlie and Able Flights. He arrived in Karamursel in June 1961 and left in December 1962. David spent 25 years in the Air Force and retired as a Captain. He has kept in contact with Dale Cox and Jack Ernst, and it is through their efforts that we were able to locate him. He has expressed an interest in our organization and our reunion. He lives at 8600 Roaming Ridge Way, Unit 303, Odenton, MD 21113. Tel. 410-672-5838. Email dncp...@gmail.com.

Jack Ernst was a Romanian linguist on Dog Flight. He spent four years, 1961-1964, at Karamursel. He came as an A/2C and left as a SSGT. After Karamursel he was assigned to Headquarters USAFSS. Jack became a meteorologist, and at Patrick AFB he was a weather forecaster for the U-2 flights. He spent 24 years in the Air Force and retired as a Major. He has kept contact with Dale Cox and David Page. Jack is interested in joining our organization. He lives at 1977 Wittenburg Road, New Baden, IL 62265. Tel: 618-593-3693. Email: jackernst...@aol.com.

HERE'S AN EXTRA SPECIAL SEARCH EFFORT BY DAN O'LEARY OUR COMPANY GURU

Trefor Roberts and Chris Donaldson were reminiscing about Karamursel and a common character came up ... Jim Kowalczyk. Jim was in the same Bulgarian class as Chris at Skytop at Syracuse University. Jim was Trefor's roommate at Karamursel (1959). Trefor did a lot of searching, but couldn't find him. He finally emailed Pete Johnson and asked that the matter be turned over to "the official Karamursel web site search and rescue team." Pete sent the email to me.
I started the search as Rudy had instructed me. I checked the Personnel page to see if he was already a member, and then the Memorial page to see if he was there. I checked the Social Security index to see if he had died. I then did a Zaba search looking for a James Kowalczyk born between 1938 and 1940. Got two hits---one in Pennsylvania, one in

Wisconsin. I called both numbers, but they had been disconnected. I tried a few more people search engines. No luck. Trefor said that after the Air Force he had a visited Jim, who, like Trefor, was a student at Syracuse University. I was also a student at SU at the same time, but I didn't know Trefor or Jim. We probably passed each other in the hall. (I was at Karamursel at the same time and didn't know them.) Trefor and I, by the way, both graduated from SU in 1969. I registered and got into the Syracuse University Alumni Directory. I found Jim's record, but there was no address, telephone number, or email address. I decided to telephone the Syracuse Alumni office to see if they had an address for Jim, but I was told that the university does not give out personal information. However, the woman there said she did have an email address for Jim, and she would write and tell him that I was searching for him. I was concerned that since he didn't know me that he probably wouldn't reply, but he did answer. He wrote "I seriously doubt that we were classmates as I did not really attend the mainstream classes or participate in the normal curriculum. My four years at SU first started in 1959 through the Air Force - in the foreign language department at Skytop. For the next 10 years I ended up returning there for three additional years in between overseas assignments, radio electronics training schools, survival training school, and taking college courses at night at various bases of assignment. My BA is in Russian Area Studies. I later got a masters from Central Michigan U, again thanks to Uncle Sam for footing the bill." "I stayed in the AF for 22 1/2 years, with 3 tours at Syracuse University for basic, intermediate and advanced Russian. I went to OTS as a TSgt, and then retired in 1981 as a Capt. Had assignments to Rhine Main, Trabzon, Offutt (Neb), Denver (intel school), Viet Nam, Loring (Me), Frankfurt and Munich Germany, and final at Wash DC. I had 6 job offers upon retirement and chose the one with the least pay (at the time), Los Alamos NM. It was one of the best decisions I ever made. I retired at 63 (2004)." "I shall plan to go to the reunion next year and will be bringing my golf clubs. SC is a good days drive from here. Actually, I live only about 8 or 9 miles from Skytop. I have a Jamesville address for mail purposes, but live in Pompey NY. address: Jim Kowalczyk, 3299 Sweet Rd, Jamesville, NY 13078. Ph. 315-492-2682. (email address: jamarko2...@gmail.com)"

Dan

SAD LOSSES

Unfortunately we have sad news to report about the passing of our members since our last reporting.

CMSgt Joe Galuszek Died Oct 27th 2010

The group received the following from a member of his family:

Just to inform you that CMSgt Joe Galuszek (stationed at Karamusel) has passed away this morning (October 27th). Would you be so kind to add him to the Memorial List?

Thank you,

Accounting and Finance Specialist A/2C Arnold E Sobel served in Karamursel 1960-61. He died in Flushing, NY on 2 October 2007.

Harold L. Cornell Died Dec 2008. He was from Kanton Ohio.

Master Sergeant Haven H. Branson, AFSC 36270, served in Karamursel

1959 to 1961. He died 29 December 2003 in Orlando, Florida at the age of 82.

Wayne "Butch" Simmons



12-24-10

The Group received an E-mail from Elaine Simmons Butch's wife telling us of Butch's passing. Here's a couple of messages posted reference Butch's wake and funeral:

The wake (Calling/Viewing) for Wayne B Simmons (Butch) was held on December 30th from 4 to 7pm at the Ryder Funeral Home in South Hadley MA. "Butch" was dressed in his U.S. Air Force summer mess dress uniform (white jacket, white shirt, etc.) displaying the medals (not ribbons) that he had been awarded during his 28 years of duty - they included the Bronze Star, Vietnam Service Medal, Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross and the Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal. Displayed on the casket was his KAS morale cap with Det. 3 patch and displayed on his morale cap were his "Stable Able" pin, USAFSS pin, his KAS membership pin and a "Fighting Chix" RAF Chicksands pin. Elaine said that Butch wore his morale cap everywhere he went. There were a number of pictures displayed from the KAS 60-61 reunion at Williamsburg and the 2007 RAF Chicksands Reunion at Rochester NY along with other pictures taken at KAS, RAF Chicksands and his other assignments during his AF career. Five members of the American Legion post, that he was a member of, presented a memorial service during the wake and gave Elaine a memorial citation.

Elaine said Butch truly enjoyed the friendship of the members of KAS 60-61 that he had met at the KAS reunions he had attended (Gatlinburg, Williamsburg and Myrtle Beach) and always liked to talk about his service at KAS. Butch was always a wealth of information concerning his time at KAS – he could remember names, events, etc, at KAS that always astonished most listeners.

The wake was well attended with family, friends, and USAF retirees present.

Dave Barrow and I (along with my wife Judy) were in attendance at the funeral home during the viewing hours. Dave and I were assigned to “Able” trick and worked with Butch at KAS. In 1960 Butch and I extended our overseas tours and went to RAF Chicksands where we worked together on “Charlie” trick. Butch was one of the “Best of the Best” – an outstanding Morse Intercept Operator who could not only perform his duties in an exceptional manner but also completely understood his duties and missions.

He will be missed by all who knew Butch

Dave Bergstrom

and

Today Friday Dec 31st Dave Barrow and I attended the Full Military Service for Wayne "Butch" Simmons at the Agawam Massachusetts Veterans Cemetary. I must say it was a beautiful service, a first for me.

Thursday evening the wake was held and the Karamursel group was well represented by Dave Barrow and Judy and Dave Bergstrom. They both worked with Butch at KAS and Chicksand England. I'm sure they can add some comments about the wake especially the memorabilia which was displayed, reference the KAS group. After the services Dave Barrow and I also attended the reception at the American Legion Post 351 which Butch was a life time member. We got to meet many of Wayne's family and friends. Elaine, Wayne's wife asked us to thank everyone in the KAS group for there support.

Rudy Ruediger

and

. Just got back from the viewing and funeral for Butch.

Dave Bergstrom and Rudy Rudiger have done an excellent job of informing everyone of the details concerning Butch's service.

I would just like to add that all the KAS group would have been proud of how much Butch thought of us. There were many things displayed about family and friends, and his 28 years in the Air Force, but far and away, more things from Butch's association with our group were there for all to see. I won't try to list them, but there were a lot.

Butch was buried in his dress uniform, but his morale cap and other KAS items were also in the casket.

We were close during our time at Chicksands and Mainsite, but I think even closer in the last few years, regardless of the distance between us in miles.

I know all who knew him will miss him.

Dave Barrow

This is a copy of an e-mail I received from Helen Guest. You all know of the sad passing of her husband Bob Guest on Oct 2010.

Helen wrote:

It's taken me a while, but I wanted to tell you how much I appreciated receiving the group's newsletter. I was surprised and very pleased to see that my letter to the group was in it. That was a wonderful way for me to express to all the members my deep affection and appreciation. Bob would have been pleased.

I received the CD from Pete and was totally moved by it. You guys are incredible.

Thank you for your concern and thoughtfulness. Please give Gladys my best regards. Enjoy the holidays!

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WHAT'S HAPPENING WITHIN THE GROUP

This section is mainly to let Non-Electronic members know what's happening within the group. Seeing they aren't on-line and are missing all the good chatter coming across everyday, not to mention pictures that are posted thru-out the year.

Where shall I start ? first of all the 2010 reunion is part of the past but it hasn't been forgotten. Here are a couple of comments made by members who attended:

This one from Pete Johnson's brother Al Johnson "Just wanted to let everyone know that I really enjoyed the reunion. Sorry now that I missed the first 10. Pete and Bonnie were right, I felt like family. Everyone I met was great, funny and just great people, guys and their wives. Looking forward to next year and meeting more of you. Anyone who hasn't gone to one should make plans now for the next one."

And from Bill and Bea Burt:

"Bea and I had a great time seeing our friends and comrades, as usual Pete and the reunion committee did a fabulous job. Looking forward to next year already."

And from Dick and Pat Casseri:

"I can't thank all the people who do so much so all of us can have such a wonderful time. Pete and Bonnie, Mark and Lori, Rudy and Gladys, Harry and Jan, Ed and Kathy, Alan & crew I could go on and on and I'm sure I missed some"

Do you remember Roland Haas? He was our guest speaker two years ago at the 2008 reunion. Here is an article from the Atlanta Journal Constitution Paper:

Roland Haas, a self-described CIA assassin, accidentally killed himself last Saturday in Newnan, according to authorities.

"There are a lot of things we're not privy to, and we probably wouldn't want to know everything," Marilyn Haas told the AJC on Wednesday, referring to her husband's covert activities. "He was definitely a patriot."

Roland Haas, who died at age 58, once described his work as "the dirtiest end of a dirty business." He wrote a 2007 memoir that some praised as a gritty, realistic account of Cold War spying. Others called him a fraud.

Haas died after accidentally shooting himself in the leg and rupturing his femoral artery. Haas had just left home last Saturday night when he pulled his car to the side of the road and got out, according to reports.

Haas' body was taken to the Georgia Bureau of Investigation, which ruled his death as accidental, Yarbrough told the Times-Herald. Authorities believe he was in medical distress at the time of the shooting, the newspaper said. He was in diabetic shock, he suffered heart disease and had "several other things going on," Yarbrough said.

Marilyn Haas said her husband had a quadruple bypass last November and his kidney removed five weeks ago. But she does not think the health problems had anything to do with his death.

"It was an accident," she said. "Nobody's going to ever know exactly how or why."

Dave Devlin visits AJ Laurent in LA hospital.

I went to visit member AJ Laurent at the West LA VA Hospital on Thursday morning last week. He is in good spirits, and recovering from cancer surgery. I gave him a Det 3 cap with a Det 3 pin, and a USAFSS pin. Lots of guys in the hospital wear hats, so I figured he could show his service. He hopes to get out of the hospital after the holidays. (xmas) In the meantime he would love to hear from anyone. He doesn't have a computer in the hospital and I don't have his email address for when he gets home, but cards can be sent to:

VA Medical Center 11301 Wilshire Blvd.

Los Angeles CA 90073 ATTN: Aristide Laurent

Floor 2E Pod B/C Bed 33

He has a phone next to his bed, so he can be reached at: 310-478-3711 Ext 45781. Please call or write, he is a great guy and loves to talk.

Dave Devlin

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**Mini Reunion Los Angeles 12/16/2010
AJ Laurent and David Devlin**

UPDATE: AJ is home and can be reached by calling Calif 323-953-6733

JAKE REESE ON THE TODAY SHOW.

Rudy has asked me to share with the group through the newsletter my experience of appearing on the NBC "ToDay Show" on three occasions featuring Lionel Trains. I guess first, I need to explain how it came to pass that I found myself in this situation.

After leaving the Air Force in December 1960. I knew only two things. I wanted to marry my sweetheart "Fran" and start a sales career. In what industry, I had no idea. I only knew that I had two uncles in sales when I was growing up on the farm (Greensboro, NC) and I was more impressed with my uncles life style than the one my brother and I had on the farm. :) So, I figured with just a county high school education of the basics, I had a chance to compete in the business world in sales. Have no idea why I thought that. Anyway, to make a long story short. I answered an ad in the newspaper for a sales job that offered entry level sales training. It was a company in the children's book industry. "Little Golden Books" Do any of you remember buying these for your children? They were a house hold word back then. I spent several years with them, got the training I needed calling on retail stores and then went to work for a Toy wholesaler for several years and then on to a company called "Creative Playthings". Wooden Toys and backyard swing sets.

Now it's July 1979 and out of the blue Lionel called and wanted to know if I would be interested in interviewing for a vacant Sales Manager's position. I was happy with the job I had and was not looking to make a change, but as the old saying goes, they made me an offer I could not turn down. The rest is history. 2011 is my 32nd year as a field sales manager with Lionel. Over the years, I made many public presentations at trade shows for Lionel and in 1995 they ask me to represent the company on QVC and sell

train sets on cable TV. I did that for five years along with my sales manager's duties until we terminated our relationship with them.

Then in 2008 Lionel ask me to represent the company on the ToDay Show. I think there is a Lionel collector somewhere at NBC that has a relationship with the Lionel owners. As a result, we were invited to feature our products on there show. We have done this now for three Decembers in a row. While our segment is only about three minutes, you can imagine how many millions see our products in operation. I would sure hate to have to pay for that much air time on prime time TV.

Even with all the experiences and the people that I have had the opportunity to meet during my career, I found this to be one of the most exciting things I have had the opportunity to do. The ToDay Show folks are very nice and easy to work with. We have a little preview before air time and go over what questions that might be asked.. The folks that I respect the most in doing this show is the Lionel display set-up crew. In order to be prepared for a 8:30AM appearance they have to start setting up at 3:00AM in the frigid cold darkness at Rockefeller Center to be ready and make sure everything looks great and is working flawlessly by show time.

Now, at 73 people ask me when I am going to retire and I always say, "first you have to have a job in order to retire and anyway, how do you retire form selling toy trains".

I hope this will be the start of a newsletter feature series of human interest stories that our members would like to share with fellow members. I would be very interested in your stories.

See you at the reunion.

BUL RUN

The word is out, Rich Drnec is planning another Bul Run. Contact Rich at 920-494-1496 Wisc. He'll fill you in on times, approx cost etc etc.

The third Bul Run is just around the corner and I spoke with our man in Istanbul last week about our proposed itinerary. Think about and let me know. NO tire kickers PLEASE.

Rich



THE NEXT REUNION ISN'T ALL THAT FAR AWAY

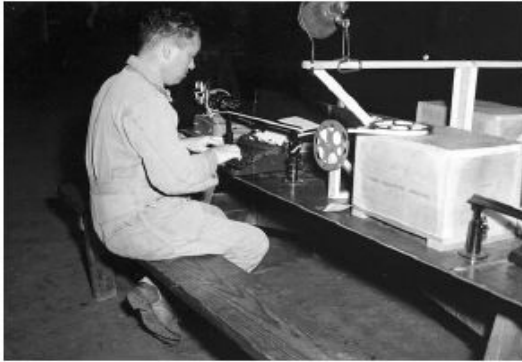
Be ready, in my next newsletter, approx 4 months from now, I plan to talk a lot about the next reunion. Pete and Harry already have things underway. They know when, where and we all know why. I feel the coming reunion is

going to be a big one. We're going to try and get the attendance back up. So stay healthy and lets encourage the new finds to attend. Always feel free to ask questions. In the 11 reunions I've

attended (all of them) I don't know of anyone who attended and didn't walk away saying they had a great time. Guess that's why they always come back another year.

PICTURES

HERE'S A FEW PICTURES TO BRING BACK MEMORIES



MORSE TRANSCRIBER



Navy Boat at the KAS dock



Karamursel Air Station Main Gate 2006



New Bowling alley under construction



390A



New Base Theater under construction



Two navy barracks under construction



Sign outside the Main Gate at KAS 1958



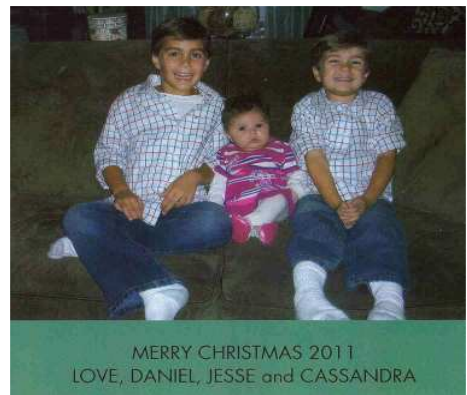
Snow on the hills across from Mudsite



Original Crew 1st Reunion 2000



Old Aqueduct on outskirts of Istanbul



**MERRY CHRISTMAS 2011
LOVE, DANIEL, JESSE and CASSANDRA**
**Ops, how did that get in there ???
Those are my three grandchildren that are
keeping Gladys and I young.**

STORES ITEMS

Just checked the KAS PARTS STORE and there seems to be a lot of items that aren't moving very fast. Thought I'd up date you on what Dave Devlin has for sale and how to purchase them.



These pins are recreations of Able and Dog Flight patches used in Karamursel. The pins are approximately one inch in height and are made of cast metal.

Price Able Pin \$7.00 Dog Pin \$9.00

<p>A faithful reproduction of the morale cap Air Force personnel were authorized to wear. Price \$15.00 each</p>	
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Here's an item that's not in our stores but well worth buying, check it out.

- Larry Tart, former USAFSS guy himself, has written 3 volumes (4th coming out soon) on USAFSS units, people there, what you did, etc. - a super effort!!

“Another opportunity to obtain your own copy of our USAFSS history! In 1,658 pages, my recently completed three-volume set "Freedom Through Vigilance" addresses Air Force Security Service (USAFSS) ground site history in detail (1948-1979)--with decreasing coverage of Electronic Security Command (ESC), AF Intelligence Command (AFIC), Air Intelligence Agency (AIA) and the AiYYr Force Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance Agency (AFISRA).

Volume I, which is now available, discusses the command's general history with emphasis on CONUS-based USAFSS

ground units and activities, including intelligence support during the Cuban Missile Crisis, command support to NSA and Space Command, USAFSS intercept sites in the States, USAFSS schools at Brooks, Kelly, March and Goodfellow AFB's, etc. Volume I concludes with a chapter on female intercept operators, linguists and analysts in USAFSS, ESC, AFIC, AIA and AFISRA.

Volume II—available later this month--covers USAFSS ground sites in Europe and the Middle East, and Volume III—in final print by Thanksgiving--documents USAFSS ground sites in Alaska and the Far East, including USAFSS in the Korean War and the Vietnam War. For completeness, the section on USAFSS in the Vietnam War also addresses 6990th and 6994th Security Squadron airborne support of the war I will be completing Volume IV (USAFSS airborne operations) in 2011. Full details are available on my website <www.larrytart.com/>.

If you want to obtain a copy of Volume I (\$24.00 plus \$5.00 USPS Priority Mail), please send me your snail mail address via email. You can mail your check (\$29.00) to my current (snowbirding) address: (Note - all 3 volumes out now)

Pricing and shipping details:

Volume I -- \$24.00 + \$5.00 USPS Priority Mail = \$29.00

Volume II -- \$25.00 + \$5.00 USPS Priority Mail = \$30.00

Volume III -- \$26.00 + \$5.00 USPS Priority Mail = \$31.00

Volume I and Volume II -- \$50.00 (includes shipping as Media Mail)

Volume I and Volume III -- \$52.00 (includes shipping as Media Mail)

Volume II and Volume III -- \$53.00 (includes shipping as Media Mail)

Volumes I, II and III -- \$75.00 (includes shipping as Media Mail, a \$15,00 savings vs. purchasing each volume separately) *

- Up to nine copies (any combination of volumes) can be shipped within the U.S. in a medium size flat rate USPS Priority Mail box for \$10.40. Contact me or the USPS for international mail rates.
- To place an order specify which volume(s) you desire and mail your check payable to LARRY TART:

LARRY TART

2936 Scenic Gulf Dr, Condo 206

MIRAMAR BEACH FL 32550

Include your email address with your order and I'll acknowledge receipt by email. My goal is to complete Volume IV (USAFSS airborne recon history) by Fall 2011--please do not include any advance payments for Volume IV -- I am not accepting orders for Volume IV until I have a firm publication date.

Please help me get out the word to others who may have an interest in our USAFSS history.

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Thanks in advance, and thank you for serving."

With this newsletter I'm going to add an attachment containing all the stores item Dave Devlin has for sale. This page is on our www.kas60-61.org website for further viewing. This attachment will aid the non-electronic member on what's For Sale and how to order. Along with the two items I mentioned earlier there are many more that might interest you. Note the cost includes shipping.

To order from the attached stores listing, send your check to and info of what your purchasing to: Mark Gransden 209 Jametown Blvd. Hammonton N.J. 08037

And make the check payable to KAS60-61 and I suggest you send along a list of items you're ordering.

Mark will inform Dave Devlin reference your order and Dave will mail you the item(s). Any questions you might have for Dave, he can be reached at 863-385-2680 from Oct to April and at 706-632-2680 during the summer months. His cell is 770-317-7340

Our STORES is non-profit so we try to sell the items at the cost we purchase them. If you attend a reunion, Dave Devlin brings all the items with him, that way you can see them first hand.

Each year we design a new tee shirt for the reunion. That design is being worked on for the coming reunion and will be for sale soon. The Morale cap and reunion tee shirt is usually the uniform of the day at our cookout and or business meeting.

A LITTLE HUMOR

There's always room for a little humor in our life, check these out:

A 54 year old women had a heart attack and was taken to the hospital. While on the operating table she had a near death experience. Seeing God she asked "is my time up?"

God said "No, you have another 43 years, 2 months and 8 days to live"

Upon recovery, the women decided to stay in the hospital and have a face-lift, liposuction, breast implant and a tummy tuck.

She even had someone come in and change her hair color and brighten he teeth ! Since she had so much more time to live, she figured she might as well make the most of it.

After her last operation, she was released from the hospital. While crossing the street on her way home she was killed by an ambulance.

Arriving in front of God, she demanded "I thought you said I had another 43 years ? Why didn't you pull me from out of the path of the ambulance ????"

(you'll love this)

God replied. "didn't recognize you"

.....
An elderly Gentleman had some hearing problems for a number of years. He went to the doctor and the doctor was able to have him fitted for a set of hearing aids that allowed the gentleman to hear 100%.

The Elderly gentleman went back in a month to the doctor and the doctor said "Your hearing is perfect, your family must be really pleased that you can hear again".

The gentleman replied "Oh, I haven't told my family yet. I just sit around and listen to the conversation. I've changed my will three times !"

POLITERLY INCORRECT JOKES

A new Muslim clothing shop opened in our shopping center, but I've been banned from it after asking to look at some bomber jackets.

A buddy of mine just told me he's getting it on with his girlfriend and her twin.

I asked "how can you tell them apart"?

He said " Her brother's got a moustache"

The FBI has discovered how to weave Muslim prayer mats out of plastic explosives.

Apparently prophets are going through the roof!!

The Red Cross just knocked at our door and asked if we could help towards the floods in Pakistan. I said we would love to, but our garden hose only reaches to the driveway.

Two guys are drinking at a bar.

One says "did you know that elks have sex 10 to 15 times a day?"

"Aw crap..." says his friend, "and I just joined the VFW!"

QUESTION ? ?

Do Ditty BOPS as we knew them still exist? I would assume they likely do not. Hard to imagine anyone is still using Morse Code. If they no longer exist when did they go away? Just curious

ANSWER

USAFISR still has an AFSC for ditty-bops, but they are few and far between according to a briefing we had a few years ago, in Bldg. 2000, Kelly (Lackland Annex now) on the Hill.

MORE ON JOHNNY CASH

Johnny Cash: Before he was the "Man in Black," Airman Cash was the Man in Blue--Air Force Blue. He was born in 1932 in Kingsland, Arkansas and grew up on the family farm. He finished high school in 1950 just in time for the Korean War. While most young men waited for the Army to draft them for two years of service, Johnny Cash joined the Air Force for four years.

He trained in Texas, where he met his first wife and then shipped out to Landsberg, Bavaria, Germany. He spent most of his Air Force enlistment in Germany. Cash was a Morse code intercept operator with the USAF Security Service.

He formed his first band while in the Air Force, called the Landsberg Barbarians.

Johnny didn't have a first name until he joined the Air Force. His birth certificate read, "J. R. Cash" simply because his folks couldn't agree on a name. They simply called him, "J.R." USAF wouldn't accept initials, so he said his first name was, "John". And, so it was for evermore.

MORE ABOUT THE U2

THEY NEVER MENTIONED THE ALTITUDE CAPABILITY.

You can see why the U-2 is considered the most difficult plane in the world to fly. Each pilot has a co-pilot, who chases the plane on the runway in a sports car. Most of the cars are either Pontiac GTOs or Chevrolet Camaros - the Air Force buys American.

The chase cars talk the pilot down as he lands on bicycle-style landing gear. In that spacesuit, the pilot in the plane simply cannot get a good view of the runway.

Upon takeoff, the wings on this plane, which extend 103 feet from tip to tip, literally flap. To stabilize the wings on the runway, two pogo sticks on wheels prop up the ends of the wings. As the plane flies away, the pogo sticks drop off.

The plane climbs at an amazing rate of nearly 10,000 feet a minute. Within about four minutes, I was at 40,000 feet, higher than any commercial airplane. We kept going up to 13 miles above Earth's surface.

The U-2 was built to go higher than any other aircraft. In fact today, more than 50 years since it went into production, the U-2 flies higher than any aircraft in the world with the exception of the space shuttle.

It is flying more missions and longer missions than ever before, nearly 70 missions a month over Iraq and Afghanistan, an operational tempo that is unequaled in history.

By flying so high, the U-2 has the capability of doing reconnaissance over a country without actually violating its airspace. It can look off to the side, peering 300 miles or more inside a country without actually flying over it. It can "see" in the dark and through clouds. It can also "hear," intercepting conversations 14 miles below..

The U-2, an incredible piece of history and also a current piece of high technology, is at the center of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan .

TURKEY A GLOBAL POWER

ANKARA, Turkey (AP) -- An army of Turkish cranes and bulldozers are at work across the Middle East, Central Asia and Africa, building dams, stadiums and highways in a boom that's helping drive Turkey to record growth and bolstering its efforts to become a regional power broker.

Essential to the effort are the Turkish constructions firms at work in more than 80 nations, One is building Dubai's new subway system in a joint venture with Japanese companies. Others are responsible for much of the construction in Kazakhstan and Kurdish-controlled northern Iraq in recent years.

"Turkish firms are putting their signature in remote parts of the world thanks to their flexibility in working in sometimes difficult or dangerous environments and ability to handle complicated local laws.

"Because they are starting to get a good reputation for being involved, probably in a joint venture with complex and demanding projects."

Barry said, however, that: "they are developing but have yet to demonstrate that they can do it on their own and prove themselves in Western Europe or the United States."

REMEMBER THE LIBERTY

If it was an accident, It was the best planned accident ever heard of.

A former Navy attorney who helped lead the military investigation of the 1967 Israeli attack on the USS Liberty that killed 34 American servicemen says former President Lyndon Johnson and his defense secretary, Robert McNamara, ordered that the inquiry conclude the incident was an accident WRONG

A good book to check out at the library is "Attack on the Liberty" by James Scott, son of John Scott who was a Lt. on the Liberty when it was attacked by the Israeli Air Force and Navy on June 8th 1967.

OIL

Here's an interesting read, important and verifiable information :

On a news program on oil one of the Forbes Bros. was the guest. The host said to Forbes, "I am going to ask you a direct question and I would like a direct answer; how much oil does the U.S. have in the ground?" Forbes did not miss a beat, he said, "more than all the Middle East put together." Much of the oil was in this area of the western 2/3 of North Dakota, western South Dakota, and extreme eastern Montana.

It is the largest domestic oil discovery since Alaska's Prudhoe Bay, and has the potential to eliminate all American dependence on foreign oil. The Energy

Information Administration (EIA) estimates it at 503 billion barrels. Even if just 10% of the oil is recoverable... at \$107 a barrel, we're looking at a resource base worth more than \$5.3 trillion.

That's enough crude to fully fuel the American economy for 2041 years straight. And if THAT didn't throw you on the floor, then this next one should - because it's from 2006! U. S. Oil Discovery- Largest Reserve in the World Stansberry Report Online - 4/20/2006 Hidden 1,000 feet beneath the surface of the Rocky Mountains lies the largest untapped oil reserve in the world. It is more than 2 TRILLION barrels. On August 8, 2005 President Bush mandated its extraction. In three and a half years of high oil prices none has been extracted. With this mother load of oil why are we still fighting over off-shore drilling?

They reported this stunning news: We have more oil inside our borders, than all the other proven reserves on earth. Here are the official estimates:

- 8-times as much oil as Saudi Arabia

- 18-times as much oil as Iraq

- 21-times as much oil as Kuwait

- 22-times as much oil as Iran

- 500-times as much oil as Yemen

Istanbul traffic gridlock moves to the sky

Debate over the necessity of a third airport in Istanbul has taken off with business representatives and city planners disagreeing on every aspect of the plan to build a new airport on the outskirts of the city. While major airline companies underline the lack of capacity at existing airports, opponents point to the dangers of constructing a new airport in one of Istanbul's rare farmland areas

With more than 40 million annual passengers and growing fast, Istanbul's traffic jam in the sky could soon make gridlock on the city's motorways look like an open autobahn.

Some say a new airport was essential because Istanbul's existing two airports do not have enough capacity for current air traffic levels and delays are bound to become intolerable.

Traffic problems

Istanbul currently has two airports, Atatürk and Sabiha Gökçen, offering domestic and international flights. Many

people, however, have said Atatürk Airport has insufficient capacity to meet the increasing demand for flights and the insufficient number of runways is only going to cause more and longer delays. Not only passengers, but also airline companies have complained about the delays.



Istanbul currently has two international airports on its European and Asian sides.

“It is not enough to construct the airport by itself; the municipality needs to think about how to connect the airport to the city with a railway system. Istanbul already has huge traffic problems and such a plan might very well make them worse.”

Arasta Bazaar



EVERYONE REMEMBER THE “GRAND BAZAAR”

While the Grand Bazaar maintains a kind of love-hate blend of color and chaos, inducing either panic or pleasure in its shoppers, the Arasta Bazaar in nearby Sultanahmet

is a calmer breed. This elegant open air shopping strip just down from the Blue Mosque is hallmarked by suave carpet sellers with greased hair and sharp wit.

The bazaar was built during the seventeenth century and functioned as stables for many years. A few fires later, it was largely forgotten and left to ruin. During the 1980s, the Istanbul General Directorate of Foundations got their act together and decided to convert it into the bazaar of today, while maintaining its most important historical elements.

The end of Arasta Bazaar opens into a charming courtyard tea garden, complete with comfortable couches and immaculately dressed waiters. After a lazy day’s shopping, this is the perfect place to recline with hot tea and freshly cooked gözleme, or kind of crepe. An exotic bazaar experience of the best breed.

KTUS WAS GOING FULL BLAST DURING THE HOLIDAY, THANKS TO LARRY WEBB

53 years ago, Christmas 1957, Mainsite's first radio station, KTUS, was airing a series of test broadcasts. A few months later, in March of 1958, the station officially went on the air during formal dedication ceremonies.

You can hear some of this nostalgia by checking out the KTUS audio oriented website at www.ktusradio.org.

Included are: “The KTUS Story” “Holiday Evergreens” and “KTUS –First Christmas at Mainsite.”

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VET DISCOUNTS

Don’t forget your eligible for veterans discount on your cell phone bill. I mentioned this a few years back, just go to your cell phone store and ask about it. They may play dumb and say they don’t know anything about it. Make them check it out on their computer. I’m with AT&T and I’m getting about 15 % off my bill each month. I’m sure Comcast and Verizon and others honor this discount also. Bring your DD214 with you for proof.

Also your eligible for a 10% military discount at Home Depot and Lowe’s. I know we’re getting too old to do many home improvements but the discount is there for the asking. You have to have a Military ID with you.

Hope you enjoyed the newsletter and like Jake Reece mentioned in his article He hopes this will be the start of a newsletter feature series of human interest stories that our members would like to share with fellow members. I would be very interested in your stories.

Send your stories to me Rudy Ruediger 7 Evergreen Ave. Methuen Ma 01844 or e-mail them to me at rudy60612@verizon.net

Hope to hear from you.

HAPPY NEW YEAR

RUDY