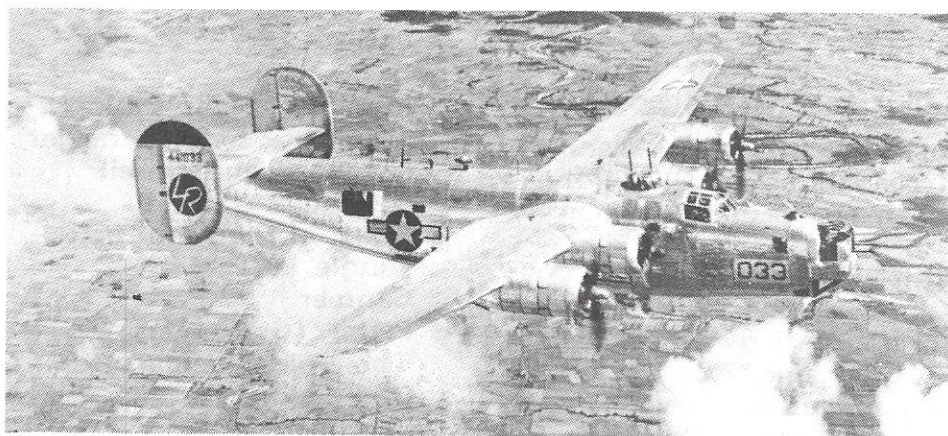




370th



371st



372nd



424th

307TH BOMBARDMENT GROUP (HV) ASSOCIATION - THE LONG RANGERS - 13TH AIR FORCE

2004-1

NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2004

QUOTES OF NOTE:

"Liberty is the only thing you cannot have unless you give it to others."

- William Allen White

"An optimist is a man who goes into a restaurant without a cent and intends to pay for the meal with the pearl he expects to find in his oysters."

- Quote

"Let your interests be as wide as possible, and let your reactions to the things and persons that interest you be as far as possible friendly rather than hostile."

- Bertrand Russell

"When fate hands us a lemon, let's try to make lemonade."

- Dale Carnegie

"I always try to believe the best of everybody. It saves so much trouble."

- Rudyard Kipling

"The only one who never makes mistakes is the one who never does anything."

- Theodore Roosevelt

"Be civil to all, sociable to many, familiar to few; friend to one; enemy to none."

- Benjamin Franklin

"Getting an idea should be like sitting down on a pin; it should make you jump up and do something."

- E. L. Simpson

REUNION UPDATE

The last pages of this newsletter carry the information covering the 2004 Nashville Reunion. Reunion Registration form and the Hotel Registration form are not stapled to this newsletter.

The Official Reunion Registration form should be returned to Jim Walsh. See his address at the bottom of form. You are to make your own hotel reservation either by phone or with the attached form.

I would strongly advise you to make a copy of the registration forms for your records before you mail them in.

LETTER FROM THE MEMBERSHIP

A recent letter from Harry Ekizian asks about stories of the Ground Crews that served in the 307th. I wish we had more stories about the Ground Crews but unfortunately, not many have written us about their experiences. We know there must be some great stories out there somewhere.

The following letter from Harry I am sure reflects the feelings of you men on the Ground Crews. If any of you have some stories please send them to us.

"Dear Editorial Staff,

Thank you very much for the newsletters, I read them from the first page to the last page and reminisce the past. I

Letter from Harry Ekizian - continued

must make an observation here. Practically everything I read is about the Flight Crews who have been on bombing missions with many hours in the air. I appreciate the fact the Flight Crews were always in harms way facing dangers of being shot down by aircraft gunfire or ack-ack from the ground and being lost at sea. We Ground Crews were always concerned about their safe return. Always!!

We too were also in harms way on the ground, being bombed, strafed by enemy gunfire or even a snipers bullet out in the dense jungles of Guadalcanal and beyond.

I was an aircraft mechanic with the 307th Bomb Gp, 424th Sqdn for a time. Then reassigned as a supercharger specialist the remainder of the time we served in the South Pacific. We arrived on Guadalcanal the latter part of 1942 and served with the 307th until August of 1945.

So, if there are members of ground crews who have experienced hazards of war or even humorous incidents, lets hear them.

God Bless,

Harry Ekizian"

If any of you Ground Crews have a story to tell - send it to me. I'll print it!!

Cena

* * * * *

Greetings from Earl Johnson!!

"Recently I came across a listing of the equipment I carried on my combat missions with the 307th in 44-45. I flew wearing a set of two piece fatigues. I had to enter the bomb bays on each flight & the Liberator had a thousand projections that would tear the light flight suit issued. The fatiguws were made of tough cloth that resisted tears and rips. Think one pair of fatigues lasted the entire forty missions plus added flights for various reasons. I wore a regulation flight jacket with breast pockets. The flak helmet which was carried on the bomb run gave problems in that it tended to slide forward over my nose. Disconcerting. Following is a listing of equipment carried:

New Testament Bible (Read 91st Psalm enroute to each target)

Notebook and pencil

Web belt

First aid kit on belt - another in pocket

Jungle knife & case

Canteen

Pistol (Colt 1911) carried in jacket pocket

Two pkgs cigarettes (trading material)

One candle

Matches

Three clips pistol cartridges

Pocket knife

One headnet

Bottle mosquito repellant

Pair canvas gloves

Emergency kit (see below)

Folding Machete on cord

Kunoi knife strapped to right leg

Contents of emergency kit:

Compass, Two blocks jungle chocolate,

One box caramels, Four sticks gum,

Adhesive tape, Anti-sleep tablets, Ata-

brine tablets, Match safe (filled) As-

piran, Halozone tablets & ointment.

All above items carried in small plastic case which served as canteen in emergency. Fastened with friction tape around outside.

On bomb run I wore backpack chute with harness, flak helmet, Mae West with sea market and shark repellant.

I was loaded like a U.S. Forest Service Mule.

The above listing is from a diary I kept in 1944-45, mostly on Morotai.

Keep healthy,

Earl Johnson

* * * * *

March 8, 1988 - can it really be sixteen years since the following story was published in a 307th Newsletter. At that time we were getting ready for the first 307th Reunion held in Nashville.

"My Favorite War Story", Thomas Holmes sent the story to me many years ago. I hope you enjoy re-reading it.

My son is collecting magazine ads from WWII that show pictures of B-24's. Do any of you remember this Red Goose Shoe Ad?

Cena



Remembering from the "Men of the 307th"

MY FAVORITE WAR STORY

HOW "BLESSED EVENT" CAME BACK WITH
HER WOUNDED AND DEAD

By - E.K. Green

"Blessed Event" was a Liberator, and the climax to its career came last year when Rabaul was still too strong.

Eight of its crew of 10 men were still alive when I talked with them -- but the "Blessed Event" was a shattered wreck.

It began almost over Rabaul. No. 3 engine coughed out. The other planes seemed to shoot ahead and, within seconds, Zeros attacked the straggler. For 40 minutes afterward the Liberator fought a losing running battle -- but she fought. Again and again, 20-mm. and 7.7-mm. cannon shells exploded within, or hit, her. Half the tail was shot away, a gaping hole was blown in the waist. The navigator was killed with the first shell. controls were shot away.

Below was the unfriendly Pacific; above, below and on all sides were Zeros spitting fire and death.

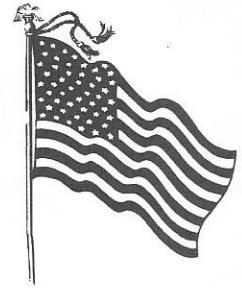
"No man ever had a better crew," said Lt. Harry P. John, of Crowley, LA., the pilot. "Each had a job to do and each was doing it."

As he fought to hold the plane in control after a 20-mm. had ripped his control board, John felt rather than heard the gasp of his co-pilot, Ray Green, of Sayre, Okla., who had been hit in his shoulder and neck.

"Hurt bad, Ray?" John asked. And Ray's cool voice answered, "I'm O.K."

"He's plenty tough, that Ray Green," John said to me. "Guess it's the Indian in him. He's mighty proud that he has a streak of the redskin."

From nose, turrets, waist and tail, John felt the chatter of his guns. At first there was no time to tally scores, but twice, at least, it seemed that Zeros took mortal wounds.



Now nose gunner S/Sgt. Bill Barlow, of Redlands, Cal., felt a thrill of triumph wipe out the pain of a severe skull wound as he caught a Zero and saw it burst into flames. Ball-turret gunners S/Sgt. John Lemon, of Kent, Ohio, hit one and saw it fall.

Every man but three was fighting. In the dead navigator's seat slumped bombardier Lt. Lester Kornblow, of New York, his face ashen, bleeding from wounds in his right arm, shoulder and leg. In the waist, radioman S/Sgt. Tom Craven, of Kalispell, Mont., lay unconscious beside his gun, mortally wounded. By the other waist gun lay S/Sgt. Dennis Ryan, of Palisade, Minn., both collar bones broken and a splinter of shrapnel in his back. He was aiming and firing with one arm.

At the tail gun, S/Sgt. Joe Dispenza, of Buffalo, N.Y., had wounds in his face and hands. S/Sgt. Charles Derrick, of Westminster, S.C., came down from the turret seeking aid for a serious abdominal wound; he took one look and went back to his guns. Lemon, wounded in the foot, came up from the ball and took over the waist guns. He got another Zero from there. Dispenza got still another.

John himself had wounds in the right arm and face but he scarcely realized it. By the time the last Zero turned back, a second engine was out of action. There was no chance to make his home airfield. It was an emergency field landing -- or else.

He made it, on a too-short runway and with only one wheel down. Green cut the ignition as their belly touched, and the ship slithered to a stop.

They had lost two men -- Craven died that night -- but, The "Blessed Event" had accounted for four Zeros and six probables out of a hundred that had taken the sky that day.



"Heck NO, Mom...that's a B-24!"

You can't win, Mother...he can name 'em all...even when you can scarcely see them in the sky.

And here's something else you *can't* see. It's the *hidden* structure...the materials *all the way through*...in the shoes you buy for your youngsters.

Why *should* you want to see them?

Because, Mother, *those* are the things that make *some* boys' and girls' shoes *wear longer* and *keep their fit*. The *looks* of a shoe doesn't tell you much about its sturdiness.

But there *is* a way to be sure. Buy a brand with a *reputation*...the RED GOOSE brand, with a 35-year reputation for EXTRA VALUE FEATURES* that *mean* long wear and lasting fit.

Shoes bearing the famous RED GOOSE trade-mark are made of flexible leathers and durable materials...formed over correct lasts by careful shoecrafters. They're built to deliver service far beyond their modest price tags.

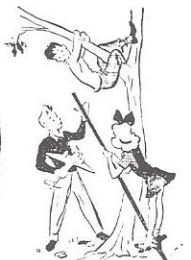
And so, when you buy shoes for your boys and girls, look for the big RED GOOSE...that continues to tell, as it has for 35 years, "These shoes are *good*...all the way through."

*EXTRA VALUE FEATURES—all the way through

1. All materials meet rigid quality and performance standards. 2. Lasts proportioned according to age groups. 3. Careful attention to construction details. 4. Extra reinforcements...where they count for lasting wear and fit.



HELP UNCLE SAM
SAVE LEATHER!
Buy children's shoes
that wear longer.
Invest in War Bonds
regularly.

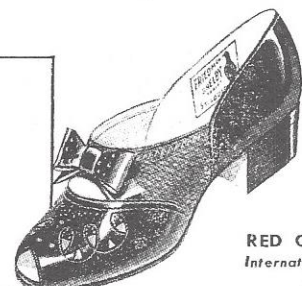


Red Goose Shoes

"HALF THE FUN — OF HAVING FEET"

AND FRIEDMAN-SHELBY SHOES

FOR BOYS AND GIRLS OF ALL AGES



RED GOOSE DIVISION
International Shoe Company
St. Louis, Mo.

News from the President

Greetings to all. Welcome Spring!! It has been a long and dreary winter and the warm weather is very welcomed.

I hope all of you are able and planning to attend the reunion in Nashville. The registration forms and information are included in this issue of the news notes. Please get them in as soon as possible. We are anticipating another wonderful gathering and look forward to seeing you all again.

Our comrade, Frank Quailia's daughter Mary Ann is battling a very rare form of Cancer and we need to get some help from you and your families to help them during this very trying time. Mary Ann's sister is a perfect match for her bone marrow transplant, but she has contacted Cathy to ask for people to get tested to be on the bone marrow registry to help others that are not a lucky as she was to find a match. These two web sites have information that may be helpful to you in explaining to your families and friends the importance of being tested to be on the registry. People are dying daily needlessly. We can help. Keep these families in your prayers and PLEASE encourage everyone you know to get tested.

http://www.cancerconsultants.com/patient_newtreatment_article.php?article=mds_overview

<http://www.fightforherlife.org/>

The cancer Mary Ann has is called Myelodysplastic Syndrome. She is in MD Anderson Hospital in Houston, Texas. Please pray for her and her family and all the other people suffering from this terrible disease.

We have had one request for the next reunion site. The request was for a beach somewhere in FLORIDA. If you have any other sites you would like to submit for consideration, please call me at 804-590-2494 or Cathy at 804-399-5563. We will try to get information to present in Nashville.

Take care and we'll see you in Nashville in August.

C. E. Jordan

Mr. Claude E. Jordan
Pres. 307th BG Assn
510 Battery Place
Colonial Heights, VA 23834

29 Mar 2004

Dear Claude,

This letter is a follow up of the conversation that we had about a month ago about a location for our 2006 reunion. It is also an open letter to the membership. As we discussed, I am willing to host the 2006 reunion in Grand Rapids, MI. We are building the Michigan Military History Museum (MMHM) at the entranceway to the Gerald R Ford International Airport. I am a founding Board member. Our museum staff and members will support military reunion efforts. The Grand Rapids/Kent County Convention and Visitors Bureau has already contacted local hotels for information packets and pricing which I have in my possession.

The above organizations are working with the Red Arrow Division Reunion in June of this year. Also in the planning stage is the 2005 Reunion of the AVG/Flying Tigers. In each of these reunions, the MMHM will be hosting a round table discussion of the Unit's history. A Moderator is provided by the MMHM. Four to five individuals are selected from the reunion group who have a good grasp of the unit history and can easily relate the human side of the story. These roundtables are held in an auditorium and are open to the public. Our major aim is to educate school and college kids and the public about the need for learning our Military History, personal sacrifices, the ever need of vigilance, and why we need to keep our military strong. I believe that the 307th could provide a very enlightening program. Our local TV media center professionally videotapes these events. Some times our local college PBS TV station also tapes. I believe that this could be of great interest to our 307th members. We have a beautiful Botanical and Sculpture Garden nearby, a brand new Convention Center, an Arena, a Performance Hall and a Ball Park with a good 2nd division farm team. These are interesting family games with entertainment in addition to the game; and the price is right. We also have several summer theaters presenting summer plays.

Typical Hotel rates are from \$79.00 to \$90.00 per day for a booked group such as ours. Of course all rooms have a 7% occupancy tax and a 6% sales tax added. I have a particular hotel in mind that is real near to many excellent restaurants (with a whole range of prices). It is also located next to two Shopping Malls.

Since our museum will just be starting our collection, we may not have many exhibits ready by reunion time. If WWII and WWI aircraft are indispensable to our group, the Kalamazoo Air Zoo is 50 miles down the road, I have a feeling, however, that we are going to be that much older by then and longer field trips may be out. Perhaps our planning should move toward more in-house events or entertainment.

Again I would like to emphasize that unless you have other reunion volunteers with super fantastic locations, accessibility and prices, we will be more than happy to host the 2006 reunion in Grand Rapids, MI. If any one wants more information, contact me at my mail or e-mail address.

Don't be a stranger, be a Longranger,


John Reeves

3460 4 Mile Rd. NE
Grand Rapids, MI 49525-9637
longranger@ieee.org
616-365-1228

CC: Cena Marsh
James M. Kendall

FROM YOUR HISTORIAN

Again we have several letters from friends and family members of "Long Rangers" hoping to contact someone who knew their relatives during the war. Whether they were MIA, KIA or returned home after the war but never talked about their experiences, it is shocking to learn how little those at home ever knew of the experiences or fate of their loved ones. If you have personal knowledge of any of the men listed below, please pass it along to those making the request.

Lt. Harry McDonald

Mr. Kendall: Hello, my name is Tom McDonald and I am looking for information concerning my uncle, Lt. Harry McDonald, a B-24 pilot MIA with his crew. Is there anyone at the 307th Bomb Group Association who might have had some contact with him and remembers his loss? If so, could you help me contact them? I would like to find the wreck of the plane if possible and bring them home. Any help would be greatly appreciated. Thanks, Tom McDonald

Association member, Lewis Smith, has already given Mr. McDonald much information, having answered his questions on the Internet (<http://www.b24.mach3www.com/>), and including information of Sam Britt's book and Sam Walker's book, both of which mention Harry McDonald during WWII. What is needed now is contact with people who knew Harry in the Pacific during 1942-1943.

Of interest is the fact that Tom McDonald is, or was, a helicopter pilot currently "helping out" in Iraq. I hope we can help him further in his quest for information. The best way to contact Tom is by email:

machelo@aol.com

S/Sgt George J. Kacoyannakis

Kim Voorheis phoned looking for information on her grandfather's death in WWII and, at about the same time, Christ Kacoyannakis wrote asking for the same information regarding the fate of his uncle. Strangely enough, both Kim and Christ were asking

about the same man, George Kacoyannakis. Although neither knew the other existed they are obviously related.

S/Sgt. Kacoyannakis was a member of the 371st Scalese crew, one of three 307th planes shot down on the November 8, 1944 mission to Alicante Airdrome on Negros Island in the Central Philippines. There were no known survivors from the Scalese plane. We feel that both Kim and Christ have received considerable information already but would be very happy to contact anyone who remembers Kacoyannakis during his tour with the 307th and would welcome copies of anything related to the WWII service of their mutual relative. Their addresses are:

Kim Voorheis
3218 Oberlin Avenue
Orlando, FL 32804

Email: Burley5@aol.com
Ph: 407-422-5585; Cell: 407-342-3837

Christ Kacoyannakis
7709 Cervantes Lane
Springfield, VA 22153
Email: CMKaco@aol.com
Cell: 703-585-0907

Please call, write or email each of the above if you have any memories of George Kacoyannakis.

Charlie C. Plott

Plott was lost with the rest of the 372nd Carter crew when they were shot down on the February 12, 1943 mission to Vunakanan, Rabaul. Rick Laurence, Plott's former son-in-law, asks us to help him locate as much information as possible about Plott and his military service. Rick has already contacted John R. Pennington who was CO of the 372nd when the Carter crew was lost.

If you remember Charlie C. Plott from the 372nd please respond to the address below:

Rick Laurence
9004 E. 28th Street
Tulsa, OK 74129
E-mail: ww2tulsa@yahoo.com
Phone: 918-280-0555

Time Is A Thief

*Time is a thief that goes night and day.
It steals your youth and takes it away.
It comes in the night and in the daylight as well.
Taking away your memories and the stories to tell.
Make all the plans you care to, plans after plans;
But all is controlled by the clock and its hands.
You know what you want, and you strive to complete,
But with the tick of the clock you'll always be beat.
The thief takes your desire, the mountain to climb.
We always complain, "I wish I had time."
This thief controls your time and your plan.
Make good all you have; don't watch the glass and the sand.
Seconds count and minutes make the hours.
Days follow, then years come to wrinkle the brows.
The hair changes color to the mysterious grey.
The eyes look longingly to things far away.
We reach for the memories so fond and so dear.
You know it was long ago but it seems only last year.
The beautiful thought tides beat on memories' shore.
And we know in our heart these times will be no more.
Those beautiful things you recall and recount,
What are they worth? Can you set an amount?
There's no way to count it or figure its worth.
Time is the most priceless thing on the creator's earth.
Watch the thief called time and put him away.
Don't leave pleasures and joy until another day.
Do what you can, love, laugh and make friends.
When the thief steals your time you are down to the end.
Recount the minutes and hours, for they are as precious as gold.
They are really more precious, they can't be bought or can't be sold.
They belong to time that's past and that yet to be.
But I'm sure there's plenty left for you and for me.
Love, and laugh, and make every moment last.
Make up in the future what you can from the past.
May you conquer the thief, that steals away your time,
By making the most of those moments that are yours and mine.*

— Jack Sneed

Dedicated to a devoted and loving wife, mother and grandmother on our anniversary, 1981

Welcome to the 2004 Reunion Of the 307th Bomb Group (HV)

Well, we have finally reached that time again where we are ready to pack our bags, put on our dancing shoes and jump on that "big bird" headed for Nashville, Tennessee. As you all know Nashville will be the site of the 2004 reunion, and I am pleased to provide you with all the information for this exciting and fun time for all.

I have secured the Opryland Resort for the week of August 17-21, 2004. The room rates are great. We were able to get an \$89.00 room rate for single and double occupancy and a \$95.00 room rate for quad occupancy. If you would like to upgrade to a room with a balcony that overlooks a garden view of the hotel you may do so for an additional \$30.00. These prices are fantastic for this hotel. I am sure you will all enjoy what the hotel has to offer. We have secured a beautiful ballroom for our Saturday evening dinner along with a fantastic band known as **Radio Daze**. So please bring your dancing shoes and band-aids for the feet afterwards. For those of you who wish to play golf, there is the beautiful Spring House golf course right next to the hotel. With the assistance of Sandi Ambrosi, we have gathered together a special evening of live entertainment at a very unique place called Greens Grocery. Here you will have dinner and listen to some of Nashville and Country music's finest such as Vince Gill and two time Dove Award winning bluegrass band THE CHIGGER HILL BOYS & TERRI.

We also have plans for many other exciting activities if you wish, such as the General Jackson Show boat; a tour to the Country Music Hall Of Fame and the Original Grand Ole Opry, Ryman Auditorium, historic Civil War battle grounds in and around Franklin, Tennessee, The Belmont Mansion; The Belle Meade Plantation; and the Nashville Arts tour. You will also have the opportunity, if you wish, to attend the world renowned Grand Ole Opry for a fantastic show.

There are several restaurants in the hotel for you to enjoy as well. Just off the hotel grounds is a Shoney's and a Cracker Barrel, as well as the new Opry Mills Mall that has a food court where you will find food to satisfy any craving.

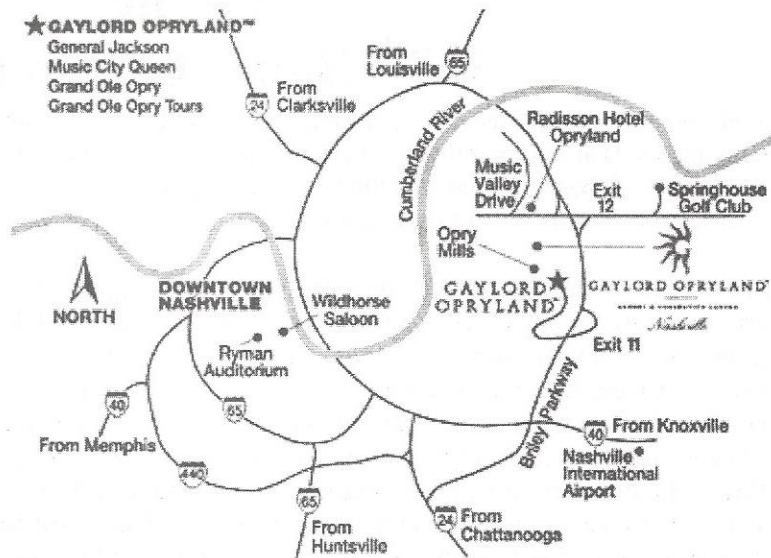
Attached, you will find the official registration forms with all the details. Please fill them out promptly. Return the hotel form directly to Gaylord Opryland Resort and Convention Center. Send the Reunion Registration Form directly back to me along with your check that will cover the registration fees as well as any tour fees that you and your guests wish to attend. These packages will need to be returned to me no later than **JUNE 15th 2004** for your reservation to be held. You may reach me at my office at 1-800-444-4336 x2319 if you have any questions or comments. Thank you so much for allowing me to do this for you. It has been great fun and I look forward to seeing all of you in Nashville in August.

Jim Walsh
Vice President
307th Bombardment Group (HV)

Gaylord Opryland Resort

Features:

Under majestic, climate-controlled glass atriums, you'll be surrounded by nine acres of lush indoor gardens, winding rivers and pathways, and sparkling waterfalls where you can unwind, explore, shop, dine, and be entertained to your heart's content. Highlights include a 44-foot waterfall, laser-light and fountain shows, and tours aboard our Delta Flatboats - right inside the hotel. While you are here, experience the legendary sounds of the Grand Ole Opry®, play at the Springhouse Golf Club®, our senior PGA site, enjoy a lunch or dinner cruise aboard the General Jackson® Showboat, or walk to the nearby outlet mall, Opry MillsSM. Explore all "Music City, USA" has to offer with our Nashville Sightseeing Tours.



No matter where you're driving from, it's easy to get to Gaylord Opryland from area interstates, as well as the Nashville International Airport.

From Nashville International Airport	<p>Leave the airport complex and go west on Interstate 40</p> <p>Proceed to Exit 215 and take Briley Parkway - 155 North</p> <p>Go to and exit the parkway at Exit 12</p> <p>Turn left off the exit ramp onto McGavock Pike</p> <p>Turn left at the first intersection into the Gaylord Opryland Complex</p>
Interstate 40 West from Knoxville	<p>Go west on Interstate 40</p> <p>Proceed to Exit 215 and take Briley Parkway - 155 North</p> <p>Go to and exit the parkway at Exit 12</p> <p>Turn left off the exit ramp onto McGavock Pike</p> <p>Turn left at the first intersection into the Gaylord Opryland complex</p>
Interstate 40 East from Memphis	<p>Go east through Nashville on Interstate 40</p> <p>Proceed to Exit 215 and take Briley Parkway - 155 North.</p> <p>Go to and exit the parkway at Exit 12</p> <p>Turn left off the exit ramp onto McGavock Pike</p> <p>Turn left at the first intersection into the Gaylord Opryland complex</p>

**Interstate 65
South from
Louisville /
Bowling Green** Go south on Interstate 65
Proceed to Exit 90B to Briley Parkway - 155
Go south on Briley Parkway and exit at Exit 12
Turn left off the exit ramp onto McGavock Pike
Turn left at the first intersection into the Gaylord Opryland complex

**Interstate 65
North from
Birmingham** Go north on Interstate 65
Proceed to Exit 90 to Briley Parkway - 155
Go south on Briley Parkway and exit at Exit 12
Turn right off the exit ramp onto McGavock Pike
Turn left at the first intersection into the Gaylord Opryland complex

**Interstate 24
West from
Chattanooga** Go west on Interstate 24
Proceed to Exit 54B to Briley Parkway - 155
Go north on Briley Parkway and exit at Exit 12
Turn left off the exit ramp onto McGavock Pike
Turn left at the first intersection into the Gaylord Opryland complex

**Interstate 24
East from St.
Louis** Go east on Interstate 24
Proceed to Exit 43 to Briley Parkway - 155
Go east on Briley Parkway and exit at Exit 12
Turn right off the exit ramp onto McGavock Pike
Turn left at the first intersection into the Gaylord Opryland complex

For your convenience, we offer an air-conditioned airport shuttle luxury motor coach to take you to and from Nashville International Airport. The fare is \$13 one-way and \$18 round-trip, about half the price of a taxi.

From the Airport to Gaylord Opryland

Look for the green-and-white Gaylord Opryland shuttle at the Ground Transportation area on lower level of the airport. The shuttle runs continuously from 5:00 am to 11:00 p.m. with the last shuttle leaving at 10:30 p.m. every day. Please mark on the Registration form if you choose to utilize this feature.

From Gaylord Opryland to Airport

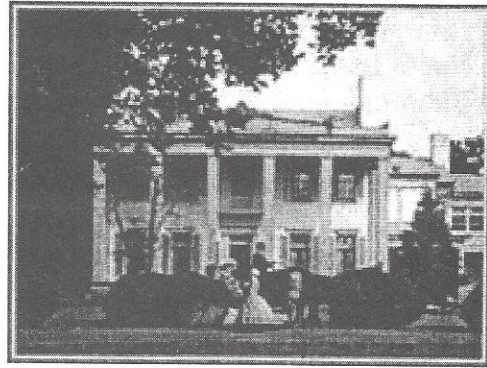
Board the shuttle outside our Cascades or Magnolia lobbies' front doors daily from 5:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m. with the last shuttle leaving the Hotel at 10:30 p.m. we'll take you directly to your airline. For domestic flights, please wait for the shuttle at least two hours before your flight. For international flights, we suggest you wait for the shuttle at least three hours prior to your flight time.

All major rental car companies are available at the airport. Please make your own reservations for this.

Historic Mansions Tour

Belle Meade

Belle Meade Plantation represents a full 100-year span of Tennessee history and architecture. Today, 30-acres remain of the once 5,400-acre plantation, making this one of the South's most outstanding showplaces. On the National Register of Historic Places, Belle Meade Mansion had been beautifully restored to reflect the sumptuous elegance of the 19th century. Elaborately furnished with antiques and art of the period, Belle Meade brings to life true antebellum Tennessee. Visit the mansion's colossal carriage house, which is filled with restored antique carriages, and see the stables, which once housed some of horseracing's finest lineage. The garden, smokehouse, and dairy give a glimpse of the practical and pastoral side of life at one of the South's most interesting and visually rewarding showplaces. Come and meet the "Old South" at the queen of Tennessee plantations!



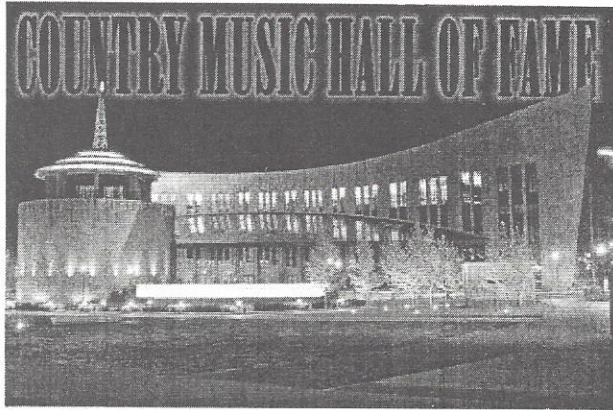
Visit the beautiful Belmont Mansion located on Nashville's Belmont University Campus for a spectacular look at an 1850's Italian villa built by the savvy Adelia Acklen. The Grand Salon at Belmont is considered to be the most elaborate domestic room built in antebellum Tennessee. The mansion contains an outstanding collection of original marble and the largest collection of 19th century cast iron ornaments in the United States. Some writers have said that if there really were a Scarlett O'Hara, she would have been Adelia Acklen. We invite you to come hear her story.

Belmont



Duration: 4 Hours

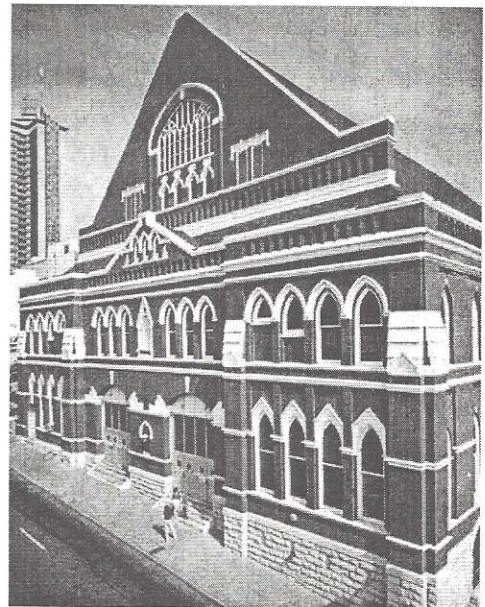
Country Music Hall of Fame & Ryman Auditorium Tour



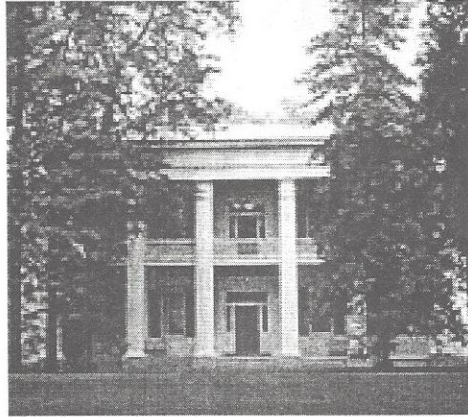
Spanning an entire city block and soaring 107 feet above a lush urban park, the New \$37 million, Country Music Hall of Fame promises to delight everyone who visits. The Country Music Hall of Fame and Museum Tour tells the story of one of America's most popular musical art forms. Through the display of stage costumes, musical instruments, artworks, correspondence, film & photography, the evolving History of Country Music vividly unfolds in this new facility.

Next, guests will enjoy a tour of the world-famous Ryman Auditorium. Experience the history of the "Carnegie Hall of the South" at the Ryman Auditorium Museum. Of all of Nashville's modern and historic structures, the one that best exemplifies the spirit of Music City USA is the Ryman Auditorium. As the original home of the Grand Ole Opry, the Ryman Auditorium is one of the city's most revered landmarks.

Duration: 4.5 hours



The Hermitage Tour



The Hermitage is a must-see attraction on your visit to Nashville. Set on more than 600 acres of rolling middle Tennessee countryside, The Hermitage offers a commemorative tribute to one of America's most admired presidents and great military heroes, Andrew Jackson. Many original furnishings, countless personal items, and beautiful landscaping and gardens are kept much as they were when the Jackson family lived there. Andrew Jackson died in 1845, but his spirit lives on amid the green fields and stately cedars surrounding this historic 19th century plantation. After touring The Hermitage, drive by Tulip Grove and Two Rivers Mansions, stately antebellum homes.

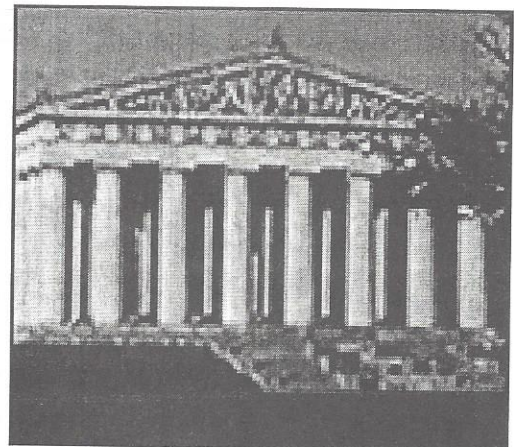
Duration: 3.5 hours

Nashville Arts Tour



You will begin with a visit to Frist Center for the Visual Arts. The Frist Center is dedicated to presenting great art from around the world. The Center hosts traveling exhibitions from the United States and abroad, as well as develops its own exhibitions on a diverse range of themes. Some exhibitions remain a few months and some for up to three years. With ever-changing treasures from around the world, each visit provides new opportunities for discovery.

Next visit Nashville's own Parthenon. Nashville has long been called "The Athens of the South" and offers the opportunity to entertain in Greek splendor. The original Parthenon, Temple of Athena, goddess of wisdom, and undisputedly the most renowned example of Classical Greek architecture, was reconstructed in Nashville in 1896. This inspiring replica served as Nashville's contribution to the 1897 Tennessee Centennial Exposition. Your guests are greeted at historic Centennial Park by the beautifully illuminated Athenian temple. Upon entering through the world's largest bronze doors, the 42-foot statue of Athena with the 6-foot figure of Nike in her hand bids your guest a magnificent welcome. A Gallery level has since been added where visitors enjoy the City of Nashville's permanent art collections.



Duration:-3-4 Hours

Historic Green's Grocery

for an evening of personal entertainment

Green's Grocery was a grocery store for over 4 decades serving the small community of Leiper's Fork. In the 90's it became a top destination for music buffs from all over the country to hear and see many of the great country music stars perform in a quaint, small venue atmosphere. Legendary music videos and specials have been filmed there over the years.

Homer Dever Band is the "Conscious of Country Music Band" formed a little over six years ago by Leiper's Fork resident musicians, pickers and legendary studio players such as Don Helms, who played with Hank Williams. They are true old time country crooners, led by Aubrey Preston who now owns Green's Grocery.

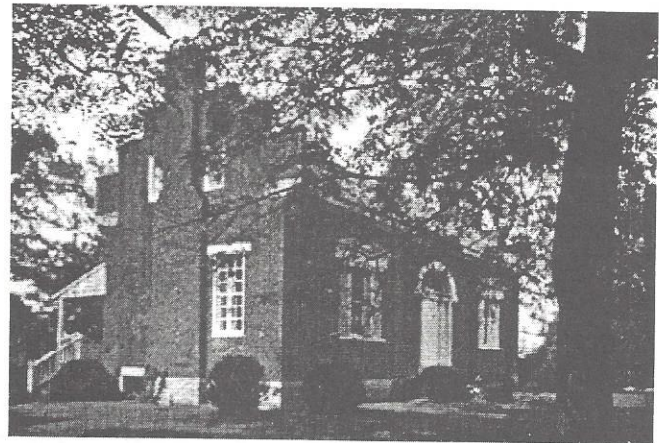
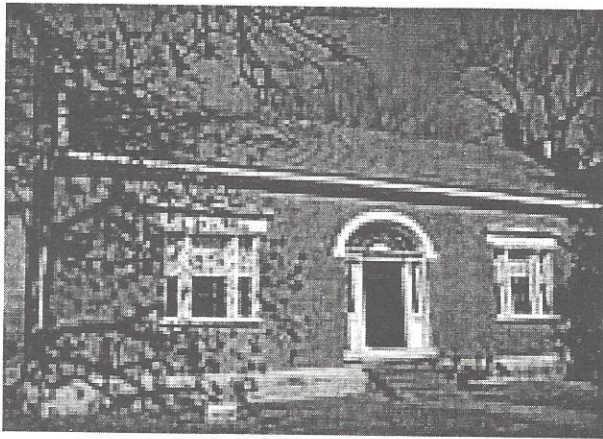
Leiper's Fork is about a 30-minute drive Southwest from Nashville into the pastoral countryside of southern Williamson County, which remains to this day, unspoiled in many locations. Much of the surrounding land has in recent years become part of the Tennessee Land Trust, which consists of land donated to the Trust so that it will remain undeveloped and pristine. Leiper's Fork today is home to a colony of diverse artists including painters, sculptures, potters, gunsmiths and boasts many antique stores and dealers as well. Well known artists who call Leiper's Fork home include the Doobie Brothers' Michael McDonald, "Betty Davis Eyes" singer Kim Carnes, Wynonna and Naomi Judd among others.

This fare will include the bus ride, a fabulous dinner buffet, which will consist of Ambrosia' Famous Babyback Ribs, Mesquite Grilled Chicken Breast, Tossed Salad with dressing assortment, Creamy Cole Slaw, Southern Corn Pudding, Garlic New Potatoes, rolls and corn muffins, assorted cakes and pies, tea and lemonade service.

Let's not forget Vince Gill and the Chigger Hill Boys and Terri as special Guests.

Duration:-3-4 Hours

Historic Franklin Tour



Also, visit The Factory at Franklin for a unique shopping experience.

Tour The Carter House- Built in 1830 by Fountain Branch Carter, witnessed one of the bloodiest battles during the Civil War on November 30, 1864. This Registered Historic Landmark is now open to the public and serves as a memorial to the Carter Family as well as the countless heroes in the Battle of Franklin. The modest brick home was the Federal Command Post while the family took refuge in the basement. See the evidence of over 1,000 bullet holes remaining on site, including the most battle-damaged building from the Civil War.

Shop on the Square- Historic Franklin is ranked one of the ten best small towns in America. Founded in 1799, the charming downtown area of Franklin is filled with restored and renovated 19th century homes and shops that are listed in the National Register of Historic Places. Main Street is lined with specialty shops, antique stores and restaurants.

Duration:-3-4 Hours

General Jackson® Showboat: Mid Day Cruises

Immerse yourself in the proud tradition of the great showboats of yesteryear and delight in the panoramic sights of the scenic Cumberland River as you enjoy a leisurely two-and-a-half-hour afternoon cruise aboard The General Jackson® Showboat.

Regular Midday Cruise

This casual, country-themed cruise includes a delicious lunch buffet and our new show *Now That's Country*, featuring Tim Watson. It's a day of music and laughter that will put a smile on your face and a song in your heart!



Boarding: 11:15 a.m.

Departure: 12 noon

Return: 2:40 p.m.

Midday Cruise, Buffet and Show

Adults (12 & above) \$37.95 plus tax

Junior (ages 4-11) \$20.95 plus tax

Cruise Only option - Available April 14-October 16

Adults (12 & above) \$9.95 plus tax

Junior (ages 4-11) \$7.95 plus tax

Children 3 and under - FREE with boarding pass

Reunion Schedule

	EVENT	Departeturn	Meeting Place
Tuesday August 17, 2004	Members Arrive/Registration	11:00 am	Arrival to the Cascades Section of the Opry Land Hotel
	Memorabilia Room Opens	1:00 pm	Memorabilia Room located in the Cheekwood AB meeting room above Rachael's Kitchen in Magnolia Lobby where a light buffet table will be setup
	Free time to reminisce and see hotel sites		
Wednesday August 18, 2004	Official Kickoff of Reunion	7:00 am	Reunion Officially Starts
	Memorabilia Room Opens	8:00 am	Memorabilia Room located in the Cheekwood AB meeting room above Rachael's Kitchen in Magnolia Lobby where a light buffet table will be setup
	Historic Mansion Tour	9:00 am to 1:00 pm	Gather in garden conservatory canopy 30 minutes prior to boarding bus. You may wish to bring a snack. Lunch will be on your own upon return.
	Country Music Hall of Fame & Ryman Tour	12:30 pm to 5:30 pm	Gather in garden conservatory 30 minutes prior to boarding bus. Eat lunch on your own prior to leaving.. dinner will be on your own.
	Free time to reminisce and see hotel sites		
Thursday August 19, 2004	Memorabilia Room	8:00 am	Memorabilia Room located in Cheekwood AB meeting room above Rachael's Kitchen in Magnolia Lobby where a light buffet table will be set up.
	The Hermitage Tour	9:00 am to 1:00 pm	Gather in garden conservatory canopy 30 minutes prior to boarding bus. You may wish to bring a snack. Lunch will be on your own upon return.
	The Nashville Arts Tour	9:00 am to 1:00 pm	Gather in garden conservatory canopy 30 minutes prior to boarding bus. You may wish to bring a snack. Lunch will be on your own upon return.

Green's Grocery 5:00 pm to
Personal 9:00 pm
Entertainment Night
including special
guest: Vince Gill and
Chigger Hills Boys and
Terri

Join us for a fun filled evening of
country music and great bluegrass at
the Greens Grocery. This trip will
include the dinner and a pay as you
go bar

**Friday
August 20,
2004**

Memorabilia Room 8:00 am
Opens

Memorabilia Room located in the
Cheekwood AB meeting room
above Rachael's Kitchen in
Magnolia Lobby where a light buffet
table will be set up.

Historic Franklin 10:00 am to
Battleground Tour 3:00 pm
Shopping at the
Factory in Franklin

Gather in garden conservatory
canopy 30 minutes prior to boarding
bus. Lunch will be on your own. The
bus will make a stop at the Factory
at Franklin where there are numerous
shops and places to eat lunch. Other-
wise you may wish to bring a snack.

The Grand Ole 6:00 pm to
Opry Show 10:00 pm

Join us for an evening at the Grand
Ole Opry. Dinner on your own.

**Saturday
August 21,
2004**

Memorabilia room 8:00 am
Opens

Memorabilia Room located in the
Cheekwood AB meeting room
above Rachael's Kitchen in
Magnolia Lobby where a light buffet
table will be set up.

Free time to
reminisce and see the
hotel sites

General Jackson 10:30 am to
Midday Cruise 2:30 pm

Midday cruise with buffet lunch
provided

General Meeting of 2:00 pm to
307th Bomb Gp

Cheekwood Room AB

Reception and 6:00 pm
Picture taking
for Reunion Book

Governor's Ball Room

Dinner & Dancing 7:00 pm to
with the Radio Daze
Orchestra

Governor's Ball Room

**Sunday
August 22,
2004**

Departure until we
meet again
See you again in 2 years!