

Mike Whalen
13716 Buffalo Road
Anamosa, Iowa
52205



(Mary Flo)
wife

Mr. & Mrs. Wallace B. Truslow
3153 Winslow Way NW
Salem, Oregon
97304-1123



April 9th, 1998 - Thursday
10:20 A.

Dear Lonaine and Wally;

First, I'm not sure if "Lonaine" is the correct spelling of your name (Wally's wife) but it sure was wonderful to hear from you. Your letter to me in Billings, Montana was forwarded to me here in Iowa. Montana address:

Phone 406-252-7796

2312 Virginia Lane
Billings, Montana,
59102

Iowa address: 13716 Buffalo Road

Phone 319-462-4733 Anamosa, Iowa
52205

Wally, you may recall that I wrote to you at the Biltmore Hotel in Los Angeles in 1946 when I was going to the University of Iowa on the G. I. bill. You made arrangements to obtain some Rose Bowl tickets for a girl, Martha Warren and her parents. Martha was a girl I was then dating. When I finished at the University of Iowa I then went to law school at the University of Michigan. When I graduated I came back to Anamosa, Iowa, where I grew up and practiced law here for a couple years. During that time I got married - September 23, 1952. In 1953 we moved to Billings, Montana where I practiced law for 43 years and retired in 1996. In 1984 I bought back part of the place where I grew up about 3 miles out of Anamosa and have been spending much of my time here since August 1996. My wife

Mary Flo, grew up here in Iowa but she doesn't like it back here as much as I do. So we still maintain our home in Billings, Montana along with the place here and move back and forth up and down the highway between the two places. We have ten children who are scattered all over the country. Two daughters in Iowa and three sons in Billings, Mt. There were six girls and four boys.

Over the years I have maintained contact with Emmett Burns, pilot, Jay Kennedy, aerial engineer; Morgan Sims, tail gunner; Paul Caldwell, waist gunner. Jay Kennedy died in Cincinnati, Ohio in April, 1995. Emmett Burns and myself attended his funeral. Morgan Sims has had some serious health problems. He had to have a portion of one leg amputated a few years ago. He and his wife ~~Barbara~~ Bobbie continue to live in Halls, Oklahoma. Paul Caldwell and his wife, Barbara live in Vernal, Utah. A year ago last spring, while I was here in Iowa I received a call from Emmett Burns and he persuaded me to meet him at a 44th Bomb Group ReUnion in St. Louis which I did. His wife, ~~Ellen~~ Mary Ellen and my wife Mary Flo were also there. Everyone was old but cherished memories were renewed.

at present we have a married daughter living in Tacoma, Washington and two married daughters living in Seattle. The youngest daughter, Betty in Seattle is married to a Captain in the Air Force. He is a graduate of the Air Force Academy at Colorado Springs and is presently stationed in a Boeing plant in Seattle expediting and

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overseeing air force contracts. Our daughter, Becky called me last Sunday and said that her husband John was being transferred this September to serve as Comptroller at Meeks Field in Iceland. Wally, you will recall that Meeks Field is where we re-fueled, ate and slept on the way to England in July, 1944 and on the way home in May, 1945. I am sure they will find it to be quite a contrast from Seattle.

In 1976 I went to England and visited the base at Shipdham. Many of the buildings were still there. Some of the large hangars were being used by some construction company. Some of the old mess hall as well as the picket post were still in existence at 506 squadron site. There were some geese roaming around the area. Our barracks had been ~~divided~~ divided up into stalls for pigs but that operation had been abandoned. The main runway was still in place with grass growing up through cracks, a stack of hay in the middle of it and cows grazing on the field. In the stillness, I still could almost feel the thrust of power as Emmett took us down that runway so many times headed out for Europe.

Sorry to hear of your health problems, Wally. Keep up your spirits. From her note I am satisfied you have a good wife. Point the spelling of your name when you next write. Sometimes I can't even read my own.

Happy Easter and may God bless both of you.

all the best

Mike Whalen