ISSUE 31 VW-1 TRACKER JANUARY 2008

Reunion Plans Complete

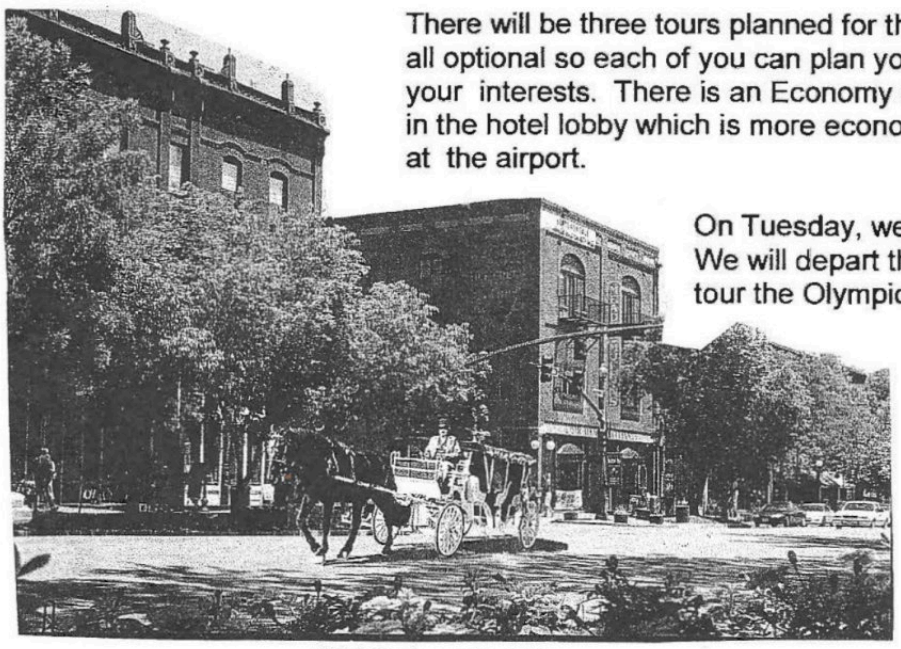
It seems to have taken longer this time around, but the reunion plans are finally all in place. Contracts are signed, sealed and delivered and we are a "GO"!

There is a major change in the hotel registration procedure. Attendees will be making their own reservations with the Best Western Academy Hotel in Colorado Springs. The reunion dates are June 16, 17, 18 and 19th. Call Phone Removed or Phone Removed Tell them you are with the VW-1 All Hands Alumni Association. Your rate will be $ 79.00 per night for a standard (two double beds) or a king room. The hotel offers airport pickup service from 8 a.m. to 11 p.m. Just call from the airport when you arrive.

If you need additional space, mini suites are available at $ 149 per night; executive suites are $ 249.00. Make your own arrangements. Be sure to let them know of any special needs or requirements you may have or if you wish to bring a pet. Colorado is now a non-smoking state so you will be unable to get a smoking room. The hotel is extending the reunion rate for three days prior to and following the reunion dates so you can extend your vacation if you so choose. The quoted rate will include a full breakfast buffet for the ten day period.

Since each of you will be making your own room reservation, note that the registration form enclosed includes charges only for the food and activities that will be held in the Academy Hotel; plus any optional trips that you elect to take.

The registration fee of $ 80 per person includes the meeting room buffet available from 12 to 6 on Monday, June 16; the buffet dinner preceding the auction on Wednesday, June 18th; and a sit-down dinner and entertainment on Thursday, June 19th. As usual, the beer, soft drinks, taxes and tips are all included in this registration figure.



Old Colorado City

There will be three tours planned for the group. They are all optional so each of you can plan your vacation to suit your interests. There is an Economy car rental available in the hotel lobby which is more economical than if you rent at the airport.

On Tuesday, we will do a City Tour. We will depart the hotel at 8:15 and tour the Olympic Village at 9 a.m.; then on to the historic down-town area, including Broadmoor, Old Colorado City and Manitou Springs. This tour

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News from Cyberspace, Etc.

Email Removed VW-1 Web Page: http://vw1assoc.tripod.com/

Scott Bates (10/25) scott Email Removed "Wow, did I get a lot of help on that one. Thank you for putting it out to the guys. I got some great info. I am hoping I can have at least a draft of my tribute ready for the reunion in Colorado next year, which I do intend on coming down to meet some of you people. I wish Dad was still here, too. I know he would enjoy getting back together with the best the Navy had to offer. Thanks again!

(**Note**: Scott asked for some help with tracking his father's history with VW-1. Needless to say he was pleased with the results from our group!)

Bud Horn (10/25) Email Removed "Great newsletter, as always. Would be interested in your luncheon suggestion. Palatka would be good for us. Noted in the newsletter that Don Spencer may join the Association. Great guy. I flew some missions with him as we were there during the same time. We see each other at the "other" reunions and chat occasionally here. Noted: You had my tour as 12/64 to 12/66, actually it was 1/64 to /66."

George Stewart (10/26) Email Removed "Note that my new e-mail address is incorrect in the recent Tracker. It ends in .net, not .com. I might add that I have furnished Stephen Husser, the model maker, with a number of PB-1W photographs and sketches of the interior of a PB-1W, as well as descriptions of antenna locations and the PB-1W specifications that he needed. I have seen one of his models and it is exceptional. He will keep me up to date on the progress of the model."

Foster Hoover (10/26) Email Removed "Has anyone heard from Taco and Angelita Hernandez? I am worried about them. Taco and I went thru Engineers school together and served together in VW-1, AEWBARRONBPAC and PMR. His kids and my kids didn't know whose house they really belonged in ... his or mine. He is like a brother to me and I would surely like to know where he went."

(**NOTE**: Taco dropped out of the VW-1 group three years ago. His old phone number and e-mail address gets no response. If anyone knows there whereabouts, please let us know.)

Ray & Sue Keighley (10/31) Email Removed "We are doing reasonably well. Sue has good days and bad days. Capture my new e-mail address from this mail. Cancel my junoaddress and use this address for all future correspondence."

Carroll Walker (11/09) Email Removed "I was reading about the TE-7 accident in the newsletter. In the story the ID number was listed as 145928. I was flying on TE-7 in the late 50's and the ID number was 143227 for TE-7. What happened to the original number? If the history of the accident is correct, then somewhere something changed. If you have any info on this, could you pass it along to me. I am puzzled."
(**Note**: BUNO 143227 was transferred to NARF Litchfield Park, AZ in June 1960, scraped in 1965)

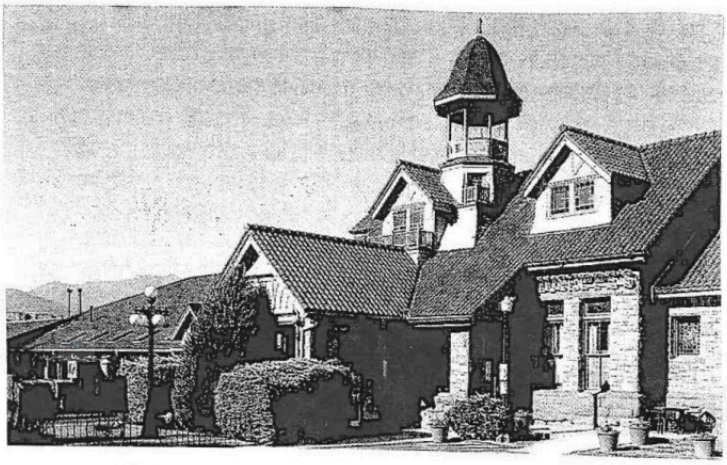
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Reunion Plans Complete (Continued from Page 1)

is designed to acquaint you with the area and provide historical background. Lunch is included at Guisseppe's Old Depot Restaurant. We will return to the hotel at 2 p.m. The cost of this tour is $ 48.00 pp, lunch included.

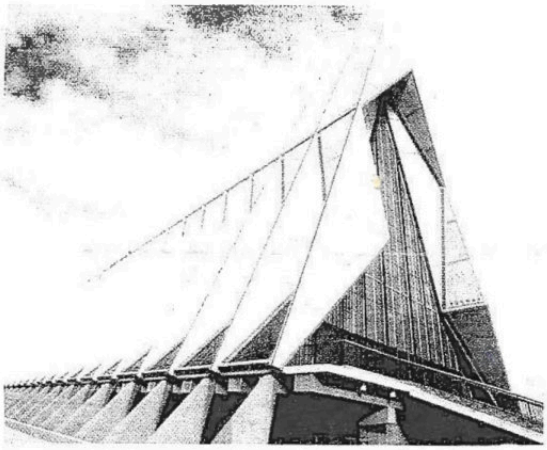
On Wednesday, our tour begins at 9:00 a.m. at the US Air Force Academy.

This will include a walk to the famous Cadet Chapel, along with an overview of the Honor Court, Arnold Hall and the Cadet Field House. From the Academy



Guisseppe's Old Depot Restaurant

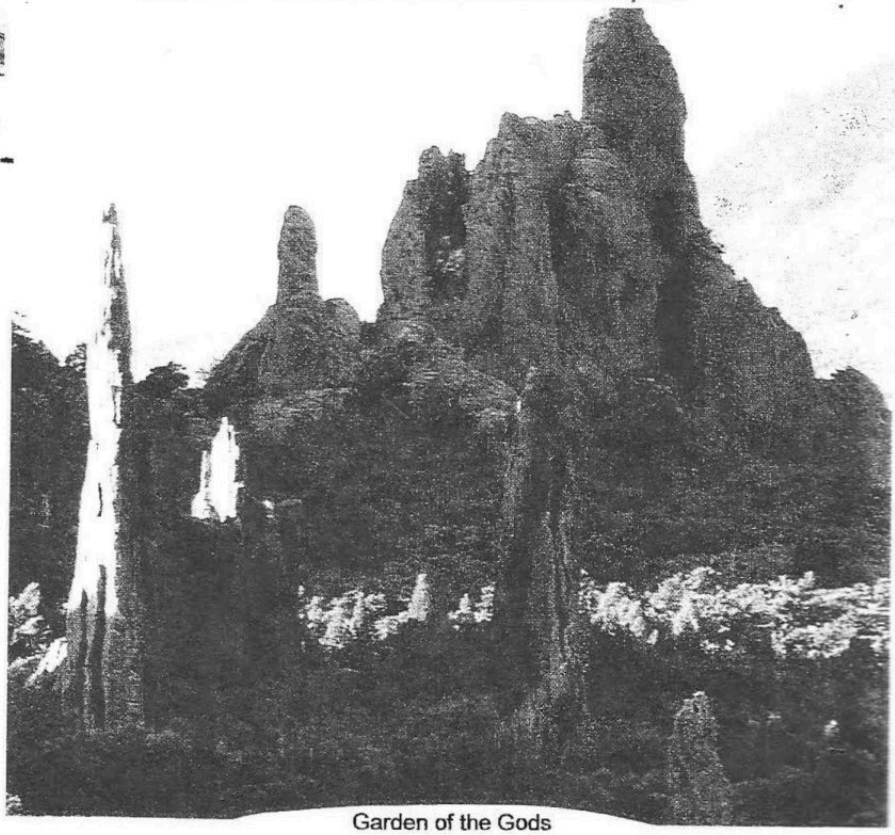
we will drive to the Garden of the Gods, where we will have lunch and do the riding tour of the Gardens. You will view the magnificent red sandstone formations, many of which are over 300 million years old and were sculpted through time by erosion. The Trading Post there opened in the early 1900's and has a fantastic variety of Colorado gifts and souvenirs. There is native American jewelry, sand paintings and Pueblo pottery. Some serious shopping can be done! The cost is $ 43.00 pp, lunch included. Return to hotel at 2 p.m.



Cadel Chapel at U.S. Air Force Academy

Thursday is our trip to the Royal Gorge Bridge and Park. It is about an hour and 15 minute drive and is about the same e levation of Colorado City. The advertisement says it is "a place where looking down is even more breathtaking than looking up. A place that brings together the scenic beauty of the Grand Canyon and the human achievement of the Golden Gate Bridge." The bridge was built in 1929 for $350,000 and is 1,053 feet above the Arkansas River. The park includes two "rides" that are included in our tour price ... your option, of course. There is an

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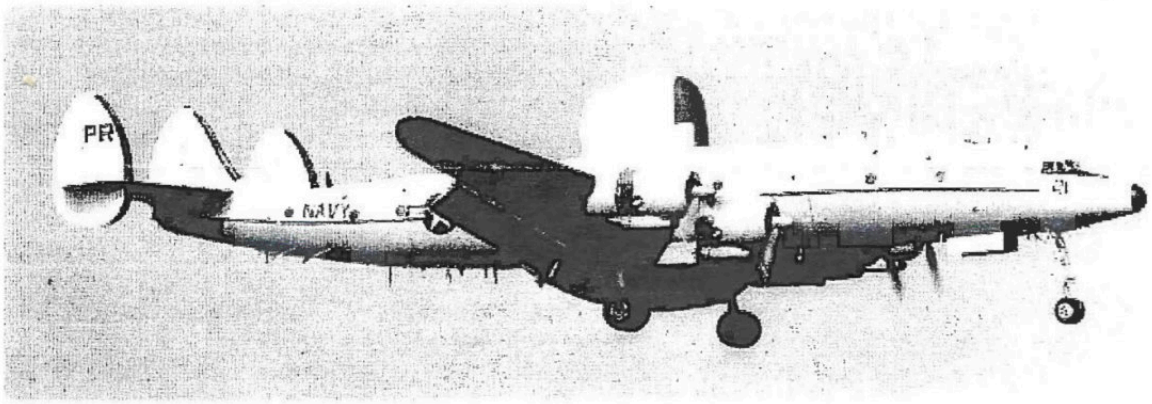


Garden of the Gods

News from Cyberspace (Continued from Page 2)

Clint Epley (11/09) Email Removed I received word that Herman C. Taylor is having some serious neurological issues that have really knocked him down (put him in a wheel chair). You all may remember Herman as a Willy flight engineer in VQ-1 in the late 60's and early 70's. He was always an upbeat, enthusiastic guy who loved being part of the VQ community, especially the Willy Victors. Unfortunately he is now looking at a very grim prognosis. Herman's wife Mary said e-mails, letters and such would really be appreciated and may do a lot to lift his spirits. He can be reached at Email Removed His address is Address Removed Meridian, Address Removed Phone: Phone Removed Please pass this along to those you know who may want to cheer up an old shipmate."

John & Karen Martin (11/04) Email Removed "The Microsoft FSX or Flight Simulator Ten is a software program available for about $ 60.00; found at Best Buy, etc. The program has a lot of airplanes and tutorials but the Connie has to be downloaded and installed in the FSX program. www.flightsim.com is a good source for downloads of all kinds of good stuff. I introduced Al Madsen to this program last spring when we were in Texas. Good luck with this if you try it."



VQ-1's PR-21 (BuNo 135749) landing at NAS Atsugi, Japan, about one week before it was shot down by two North Korean MIG fighter's over the Sea of Japan on 4/15/69.

Pete Wasmund (12/01) Email Removed "Joe and Mary Ann Vilsack called about an hour ago on their way to Millington. They happened to be coming down along US-64 from Savannah, TN visiting relatives. Since they would pass within two miles of our house, we had them stop by. They only were able to stay a short while, but we had a pleasant visit rehashing old times and discussing the upcoming reunion."

IMPORTANT INFO FROM PETE: The web-site hit another milestone on 12/02. We had more than 10,000 page views during the past 30 calendar days. In November we had more than 9,600 pages viewed! Go, Pete!!!

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Reunion Plans Complete (Continued from Page 3)

incline railway that descends over 1,500 feet to the canyon floor at a 45-degree angle. The other is an aerial tram the glides more than 1,100 feet above the canyon floor and offers an exceptional 360 degree view of the Gorge, the Bridge, the park and the majestic Sangre de Cristo Mountains. The Plaza Theater in the park gives an historical look at the Gorge's history, including an educational video. Lunch is not included in the tour price so you can dine at your convenience during our time at the park. The tour bus will be leaving the hotel at 8:00 a.m.; returning at 2 p.m. The price is $ 55.00 per person, w/o lunch.

The auction will be back for Wednesday evening, following the business meeting and dinner. Give some thought to what you can bring to auction off ... memorabilia always goes very well ... or whatever you think would be appropriate. Please do not bring items of significant value. The auction is a fun activity and we have found that items of value do not bring go for anywhere near their value and can be the source of difficulty. Keep it simple; keep it fun.... That is the "word of the day".

We will be having a sit down dinner at the Academy Hotel on Thursday night and our entertainment is going to come to us. We hope you will enjoy the surprise we have in store for you.

Once again we ask that you try to get your registrations in early so we can plan the number of buses needed for the tours, etc. If you do not sign up for these tours in advance, you may not be able to get on them since the bus sizes will have already been established before your arrival in Colorado Springs. Your money is refundable up to one week before the reunion so you have nothing to lose. Also, please make your hotel reservation early in order to ensure you get one of the blocked rooms.

We are looking forward to another successful reunion. It is always a delight to see old friends and reminisce about old times.

News from Cyberspace

(Continued from Page 4)

Gary & Gay Oulman (12/12) Email Removed
"We will be heading to Florida the 20th of December to be with family for Christmas and plan on spending the month of January also. Last week we met with the "lunch bunch" in Jackson again and had a great day. Always enjoy being with everyone and come away with such an upbeat feeling. We are really looking forward to Colorado Springs, so I think I will keep Gary away from boats, and anything dangerous until then."

Pete & Dottie Wasmund (12/24) "There are about two dozen sites that link to our site now. The ones that have had people linking back most consistently are: VQ, VP Navy, s VW-4 site, willievictor (by Was Mortensen), and a B17 site. This usually amounts to about a half dozen per day at most. If you google VW-1 our site is top of the list, of which I am most proud. There is a different result if you just search using VW1 as this pretty much gets "Volkswagen". So I guess the dash is important! Searching with MSN, Yahoo or ASK with VW-1 gets varied results. Sometimes the listing shows us on the first page, other times it is not. If you add to the search one or more of these words – agana, guam, typhoon trackers – then the results are much better. Our site activity had another record last month – almost 9,700 pages viewed. This month will not be as great, but well above the average for this year, which is 5,800 pages. I am happy to be able to present the pictures and other information sent to me by many different people. Without these contributions the site would be NOTHING."

New Members

James K. Fette **ATN2**
(aka) Ken, Jimson, Babysan)
Address Removed 12/61-3/63
Pflugerville, Address Removed Phone Removed
Wife: Kathleen Email Removed

Aircrewman on Crew 2; 2nd Radio to Bill Williamson. Had the pleasure of flying on the night Typhoon Karen went over Guam. I was transferred from "A School in Memphis, TN to AEWBARRONPAC, HI for three months before coming to VW-1.

Gerald Joseph Fettes (Jerry **AE2**
Address Removed 5/63-1/65
Burlington, Address Removed Phone Removed
Wfe: Carol Email Removed

Flew on TE-4 as flight electrician.

Ted Kozikowski **PN3**
Address Removed 6/62–6/64
Address Removed 911
Wife: Aiko Phone Removed
Email Removed

Personnel Office; mess cooking

Russell Weyers **AE3**
Address Removed 4/66-11/67
North Platte, NE Phone Removed
Wife: Mary Jane

Worked in electric shop; did tour in Chu-Lai; engine buildup in AIMD.

David Stands (Phone call: 12/17/07) We have another young man wanting to know more about his father 's service to our country. David's dad was named George and he was in VW-1 in the late 50's or early 60's. As it is too late now to ask his father directly he is looking for anyone who might have served with his father in VW-1. His phone number is Phone Removed and he would appreciate any information you might have.

William MacAdam (11/14) New Address: Address Removed
Lafayette, Address Removed

FIRST KNOWN FLIGHT MANUAL

(From George Dean)

These instructions were issued with the Glen Curtiss PUSHER in 1911:

1. The aeronaut should seat himself in the apparatus, and secure himself firmly to the chair by means of the strap provided. On the attendant crying "Contact" the aeronaut should close the switch which supplies electrical current to the motor, thus enabling the attendant to set the same in motion.

2. Opening the control valve of the motor, the aeronaut should at the same time firmly grasp the vertical stick or control pole which is to be found directly before the chair. The power from the motor will cause the device to roll gently forward, and the aeronaut should govern its direction of motion by use of the rudder bars.

3. When the mechanism is facing into the wind, the aeronaut should open the control valve of the motor to its fullest extent, at the same time pulling the control pole gently toward his (the aeronaut's) middle anatomy.

4. When sufficient speed has been attained, the device will leave the ground and assume the position of aeronautical ascent.

5. Should the aeronaut decide to return to terra firma, he should close the control valve of the motor. This will cause the apparatus to assume what is known as the "gliding position", except in the case of those flying machines which are inherently unstable. These latter will assume the position known as "involuntary spin" and will return to earth without further action on the part of the aeronaut.

6. On approaching closely to the chosen field or terrain, the aeronaut should move the control pole gently toward himself, thus causing the mechanism to align more or less gently on terra firma.

Is This YOU??

"I'm going to go to you of these reunions one of these days. Colorado Springs would be nice. Maybe we should get this application in." Repeat: one month later. Repeat: three months later: Five months later: "Maybe the next one."

My friends, Live is Short. Never put off till tomorrow what you can do today. At our ever advancing age, we cannot afford to delay.

So .... If you are thinking about it ..... DO IT! It has been said that when ones life on earth comes to a close, it is not the things we did we regret .... It is the things that we failed to do!

— Obituaries —

Nicholas "Nick" Simmons

August 24, 2007
McAllen, Texas

Following his family tradition, Nick served in the US Navy, retiring at the age of 36 as a Chief Petty Officer. He flew as a crew chief with Crew #7 while with VW-1 from Dec.'65 to Dec. '67. On October 2, 1972 he retired after 20 years of service.

After retirement from the Navy, Nick worked at the screw worm radiation plant in Mexico and retired from the US Civil Service. He was an avid fisherman and hunter.

"Pancho Villa ....
has arrived! This picture was taken for Ruby's granddaughter's 21st birthday celebration at a Mexican restaurant. Now don't count the beer bottles. I didn't have a single drink! I was coerced into putting on this sombrero, too."

(This is the story from LeRoy White ... now it is up to us to decide whether to believe him or not. All of us who know LeRoy know he has an unquenchable zest for life that is delightful. He is also a darn good photographer and does a great job of it for VW-1 at our renions. Go LeRoy!!)





VW-1 Association
c/o Ed & Sally Metzger
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Mailing Code Removed