

Reunions Don't Just Happen

1990

A few years ago, as an increasing number of long time members of the Buckeye Wing assumed retired status, the idea-of forming an Association and organizing reunions was frequently discussed. One afternoon in the spring of 1986 in the cool confines of the Rickenbacker Consolidated Club Lounge, a small group of 302nd Alumni were again discussing this topic.

First Reunion
Oct 18, 1986
Rickenbacker
Club



The 35th anniversary of the activation of the Wing was approaching and a commemoration of this event seemed appropriate. As the story goes, at some point in the discussion, Carl Yerian excused himself to visit the men's room and upon his return was advised of his election as chairman of a committee to arrange a Reunion and organize an Association of people formerly associated with the Wing.

As young lad on a farm near Mt. Sterling Ohio, Carl had once been assigned by his father' the task of cleaning out a stall in a remote section of the barn. When a younger brother questioned the enthusiasm with which Carl was approaching his task, Carl replied, "That with all the 'stuff ' 'in this stall, there has to be a pony here, somewhere".

There is no record of whether or not Carl ever found the pony, but vowing never again to leave a meeting prior to adjournment, he accepted the challenge, which had been thrust upon him. Additional committee members were enlisted, planning sessions were scheduled and the first Reunion became a reality at an October 18th Dinner Dance at the Consolidated Club. Approximately 219 attendees enjoyed this inaugural event and at a Sunday morning general meeting, The Buckeye Wing- Association was born.

Bernie Cecil

First
President

In accordance with a constitution and by-laws, approved by those present at the General Meeting, officers were elected and the Association got off to a flying- start. Bernie Cecil served as first President and under his capable leadership the constitution and by-laws were reworked and refined and the process of installing the memorial Tree and

Plaque at the Air Force Museum was initiated. Bernie's tenure was climaxed by an outstanding weekend Reunion at the Sheraton Springdale near Cincinnati, featuring a Friday night River boat cruise, a Saturday morning Style Show for the ladies as well as the Saturday Evening Dinner Dance.

2nd Reunion
1988

Sheraton
Springdale

Jim Riddle

Second
President

At the General Meeting of the Cincinnati Reunion, Jim Riddle assumed the Association presidency and immediately established a time line for completing the unfinished projects of the Association. During the following months, the; constitution and by-laws were further refined and amended, decisions regarding the Memorial Tree

and Plaque at the Museum were implemented and the disposition of the plaques originally mounted at the entrance of the Headquarters Building at Clinton County AFB, was arranged.

By the weekend of Reunion 1990, these tasks had been completed and Jim Riddle and those Association officers, Directors and Committee Chairmen, who had assisted him, could take justifiable pride in what had been accomplished. The same "can do" spirit, qualities of leadership, cooperation and feelings of unit pride and loyalty, which characterized the Buckeye Wing were much in evidence during these four years of the Association history.

Information provided by
Senior Master Sergeant Don White

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Buckeye Journal Newsletter