

"Claeys is Available" read the signs which mysteriously appeared in Capt. George DeVack's 368th room soon after the 27 July 44 arriv^{al} at Thurleigh of Lt. Richard H. Claeys.

And Claeys was ready to back up such efforts anytime he could get a seat in the cockpjt of a 306th B-17.

Once he began flying he jusr didn't quit, and by the time the war was over in April for th^e 306th, he had a total of 71 missions. This brought him the Air Medal with nine oak leaf clusters, quite a collection for a bomber pilot. His mission total was exceeded but only by a very few men. The late Immanuel Klette, 369th pilot, flew more than 90 missions with the 306th and the 91st Bomb Groups, where he was a squadron commander.

Brig. Gen William S. Raper flew a tour with the 306th as a 368th pilot, 367th Squadron CO, and Deputy Group Commander, until he moved to the 303rd Bomb Group as C.O. 30 October 1944. His mission total was also over 90, in all.

"Claeys thrived on combat," says DeVack, "and it appeared to have no adverse effects on him. I thought he had a personal grudge against the Germans, which he handled in this way."

Claeys was never far from the base, and spent most of his waking hours at Squadron Operations if he wasn't flying. He was always on hand to take someone's place, to slow fly a plane, and would do anything to get his hands on the wheel and his fee on the rudder pedals.

In 1941 he tried to get into the U. S. Aviation Cadet program, but was judged too old. (At the moment the editor can not find a birthdate for him). Anyway, he made his way to Toronto, Ontario, and enlisted in the Royal Canadian Air Force for pilot training 28 Nov 41. He completed his training 21 Nov 42 and was sent to England to join the Royal Air Force.

He became a sergeant pilot for the RAF,

Roger Freeman

12 January 1995

Dear Roger:

I am in the midst of writing a story, and have stopped to write you a letter. I'd like to impose on you, if I can, to get me some information if possible on a 306th pilot who flew for the RAF for a bit.

H.

He was Richard/Claeys, who joined the RAF after completing flight training with the RCAF 21 Nov 1942, when he became a sergeant pilot. He was discharged 24 May 1943, and was assigned to the 306th 18 July 1944. He later flew 71 missions for the 306th.

I do not know his serial (?) number with the RAF, but his American serial # was 0-2045262.

I'd like to know how many combat missions he may have flown with the RAF, in what type aircraft, and what his rating was when he left the RAF.

I assume that you know where to write for such information, and perhaps even have a contact who can speed along the request for any hard data.

Incidentally, Claeys was killed 19 August 46 when shot down flying a C-47 which wandered in to Yugoslavian air space. He was a captain at that time.

Anything you can come up with will be greatly appreciated.

All the best,

12 January 1995

Student Personnel Records
St. Charles Public Schools
St. Charles, IL 60174

Dear Sir:

I am seeking two items of information concerning the late Capt. Richard Henry Claeys, who was killed while flying a US Army Air Force plane over Yugoslavia in 1946.

I would like to ascertain his birth date and his date of high school graduation.

I am presently preparing an article to appear in the newspaper of the 306th Bomb Group, as he had a remarkable combat record while flying 71 combat missions over Germany and Occupied Europe during the last nine months of WWII.

A stamped, addressed envelope is enclosed for your convenience.

Let me extend to you my personal thanks for any assistance you can give me on this data.

Sincerely yours,

Leon Rich

909/794-5370

SUBJECT: RE: RICHARD H. CLAEYS		FILE# 1325-500/S INQ# 89/747	DATE 31 October 1989
TO: Mr. Russel A. Strong 5323 Cheval Place Charlotte, NC USA 28205		FROM: Directorate of History National Defence Headquarters 101 Colonel By Drive Ottawa, Canada K1A 0K2	

X	1. Information requested <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> is attached <input type="checkbox"/> cannot be provided
	2. Photocopying costs: \$. Make cheque or money order payable to "The Receiver General for Canada," and return to the Directorate of History.
	3. The information you request requires research beyond that which current budget and staffing constraints allow us to provide. Should you choose to do your own research here, however, we would be pleased to assist you. Or, if you prefer, we can provide a list of private researchers, familiar with our resources, who would be willing to perform the services you require for a fee.
	4. Budget and staffing constraints prevent us from responding at this time. A reply will be forthcoming as soon as possible, but experience with the current backlog indicates that this will be at least several months.
	5. The information you request is not held here. Your request has been forwarded to another agency (address given below) for action.
	6. Forwarded to you for appropriate action and direct reply to the inquirer, who (has) (has not) been notified of this referral.
	7. Suggest you write to the addresses given below.
X	8. Access to personnel files may be gained by writing directly to: Personnel Records, Centre, National Archives of Canada, 395 Wellington Street, Ottawa, Ont., K1A 0N3.
	9. Photographs may be ordered directly from; Canadian Forces Photographic Unit, Canadian Forces Base Ottawa (North), Ottawa, Canada, K1A 0K4.
	10. Consult the reference works referred to in the attached photocopies.
	11. COMMENTS:- According to our record on microfilm, Claeys enlisted on 28 November 1941 at No. 1 Manning Depot in Toronto, Ont. He completed his training at No. 3 Initial Training School, Victoriaville, Quebec, No. 21 Elementary Flying Training School, Chatham, New Brunswick, and No. 2 Service Flying Training School, Ottawa, Ontario before being sent overseas to join the Royal Air Force on 21 November 1942. He was discharged 24 May 1943. Further information may be available from the Personnel Records Centre (No. 8 above).
	NAME AND TITLE Ann Martin, Research Assistant
	SIGNATURE <i>Ann Martin</i>

Louis Maurice Joseph Jacques Rank

CHRISTIAN NAME

Aircrew 28-1-51
UNIT DATE T.O.S.

MILITARY DISTRICT

Prev. Serv. WW II ARMY D-146726

18-5-27
DATE OF BIRTH

SOS I7-4-57 Item 5(b)(vi)

NEXT OF KIN RELATIONSHIP

T.O.S. AUX.10-3-59
ADDRESS

480
CLAYTS

Richard
Henry

S
USA
MC

28-12-41
Windsor
3-8-10

R145029

POSTING	EFF.			RANK	EFF.			TRADE	EFF.			WSG 105-45	
	28	11	41		28	11	41		P of O	S	28		11
I ND	28	11	41	AC 2	28	11	41	P of O	S	28	11	41	
H	18	12	41	L-R	28	4	42	PLT	S	28	4	42	
3 ITS	28	2	42	SGT 1 P	28	10	42	"	SP	28	10	42	
2 IEF	28	4	42	T E SGT P	28	4	43						
2 SF	9	7	42										
1 Y	6	11	42										
RAF	21	11	42										
DISCH	29	5	43										
392 (15)													

FORM 7-41 (REV)
11-12-1940-2-127

CLAFFET CELIA LUCY

W-304461

HAVING MARRIED SEE- STEINKE CELIA LUCY

Louis Maurice Joseph Jacques Rank

CHRISTIAN NAMES

Aircrew 28-1-51

UNIT

DATE T.O.S.

MILITARY DISTRICT

Prev. Serv. WW II ARMY D-1h6726

18-5-27

DATE OF BIRTH

SOS I7-4-57 Item 5(b)(vi)

NEXT OF KIN

RELATIONSHIP

T.O.S. AUX.10-3-59

ADDRESS

420 CLARKS

Richard Henry

S USA RC

28-11-41 Windsor 3-5-10

R145029

POSTING	EPP.			RANK	EPP.			TRADE	EPP.				
I MD	28	11	41	AC 2	28	11	41	P of O	S	28	11	41	WS 2 105-45
H								PL					
3 ITS	28	2	42	SGT TP	28	2	42						
2 IES				TE SGT P	23	4	43						
	4	7	43										
17													
DDF													
DISCH	24	5	43										
29													

FORM 7-41 (REV) 11-12-1942 2-197

CLAFFEY CELIA LUCY

W-304461

HAVING MARRIED SEE- STEINKE CELIA LUCY

DEPARTMENT OF NATIONAL DEFENCE
MINISTÈRE DE LA DÉFENSE NATIONALE

DIRECTORATE OF HISTORY
SERVICE HISTORIQUE

This copy is provided for research purposes only.
Responsibility regarding questions of copyright
that may arise in the use of this print is assumed
by the recipient.

Cette copie a été préparée pour fins de recherche
seulement. Le récipiendaire sera tenu responsable
de toute infraction au droit de propriété de ce
document.

FILE/DOSSIER RCAF 130000 76/10 m fm

REEL/BOBINE _____

DATE 26.10.89

was shot down by a Yugoslavian YAK
fighter plane. This caused a furor which
made headlines all over the world. Dick
Clegg was one of the greatest pilots I
flew with during my 79 missions.

On page 313 you referred to Richard Clays as having flown 70 missions. My recollection is that he flew 71 missions, starting in August, 1944. I had the privilege of being his bombardier on a number of missions, including one or two when we were in the lead plane for the entire 8th Air Force on missions involving a thousand or more bombers. Dick Clays tried to join the U.S. Army Air Corps in 1941 at the age of 28. The age limit at that time was 27 so he joined the Royal Canadian Air Force and became a pilot. He was assigned to transport planes and later transferred to the U.S. Army Air Force as a transport plane pilot. After numerous applications for transfer to a combat unit he was assigned to the 306th and from about August, 1944 to the end of the war flew 71 missions. He stayed in the service when the war ended and was killed a year or so after the war ended when he inadvertently flew an airplane over Yugoslavia and

St. Charles Chronicle

LIV. NUMBER 21

28, ILLINOIS, THURSDAY, AUGUST 28, 1946

FIVE CENTS

FESTIVAL GAMES AT PARK TOMORROW

1 Games, Mid-day, Speakers, Singers on Program.

Annual St. Charles Fall festival will open tomorrow evening at 6 o'clock with entertainment, the midway followed by the Illinois softball tournament at seven. This event is staged for many years by the Chamber of Commerce and American Legion at Pottawatomie. It will be given Friday, Saturday, Sunday and Monday.

Entertainment will continue for seven on Friday evening to 8:00 p. m. Zippy the will entertain with fun for a ride and ice cream for the day will be given after-noon and at 2 p. m. E. W. will speak on "The Future of Dairying." A representative of the Chamber of Commerce speaks the group and A. C. Kane county farm advisor speak about the evening at the amphitheatre.

Home talent show will be given by the Rural Youth and members at 8 o'clock with a show and softball tournament continuing. Each evening at least some of the awards will be given.

Barber Shop quartets and will entertain on Sunday at the amphitheatre at 8 o'clock and on Monday the final tournament will be played about the day and the festival closes at 11 p. m. with all given and the midway end.

by Crawford Singing with Melting Chorus

Six Lane Drive On 64 and Bridge Talk of Motor Club

Widening of Bl. 64 on North ave. to six lanes into St. Charles was under discussion at the meeting of the Safety Council of the Chicago Motor Club at the meeting of the Fox River Council held at Elgin Tuesday. Plans were laid to try to promote widening of the road from Thatcher ave., Elgin Forest to 35th st., Melrose Park and again six lanes from La-Grange rd. to St. Charles. The meeting was conducted by Benjamin P. Alsholer of Aurora, chairman of the council.

It was further proposed to widen the same route from two to four lanes from St. Charles to the Mississippi river. These proposals were brought up in the campaign sponsored by the motor club in saving lives, eliminating time wasting congestion in traffic jams on overloaded obsolete routes.

A third suggestion which is directly pertinent to St. Charles is the suggestion of a new bridge, or widen the present structure over the Fox river. Some of these projects were built in the 1930s when fewer cars were on the road and fewer people used cars for business. Today it is impossible to cross the local bridge on Sundays, holidays, noon hour and five o'clock without difficulty.

Other routes under discussion were No. 20 on which the council suggests a by-pass around Elgin and widen it to six lanes from Chicago out about 100 miles; modernize Lincoln highway from Geneva to the Mississippi river and to by-pass Aurora on Route 54. The group also went on record to provide wherever possible on all the routes for separation of opposing streams of traffic by curbs or parkways.

Meeting Tuesday for On-the-Farm Training Program

On Tuesday evening, Sept. 3 at 8 p. m. a meeting is being held at the St. Charles Community High school for the purpose of organizing a Veterans' "On the Farm Training" program.

According to regulations set up by the State Dept. of Vocational Agriculture the enrollment in such a class must be limited to 10 members. In case there are more than 10 veterans who wish to start this training program, first choice will

RICH CLAEYS AMONG SLAIN AIRMEN

Four Others Lose Lives When Shot Down in Yugoslavia

Hope for the safety of Capt. Richard H. Claeys held for the past week has been abandoned when his sister, Miss Mary Claeys, 317 S. Second st., received a telegram signed by Ed. P. Wisell, adjutant general of the Army. He was listed as the pilot of the ill-fated plane which was shot down in Yugoslavia on Aug. 19 with four others aboard.

The telegram read: "Secretary of War has asked me to express his deep regret that your brother, Capt. Richard Claeys was believed to be killed in Yugo-Slavia Aug. 19, 1946, in aircraft shot down. Positive identification has not been made and investigation is



Capt. Richard H. Claeys

in progress. You will be advised as soon as definite information is obtained."

Others who have been believed to have perished with the C-47 which left from Udine, Italy, for Vienna, Austria, were: Capt. Harold F. Schreiber, New Albany, Ind., the only one definitely identified with dog tags; Capt. Blen H. Bristol, Frontenac, Va.; Corp. Mathew Conko Moon-

David Rubinoff To Give Concert Here Sept. 20

David Rubinoff, one of the greatest violinists of our age, will appear at the St. Charles Community High school auditorium on Sept. 20 in a concert of one and one-half hours duration. Sponsored by the Young Mother's club, and assisted by the Metropolitan Junior Woman's club and the St. Charles Woman's club a complete sell-out is expected before the day of the concert, with only about 800 seats available. The concert will begin at 8:30 p. m.

Although the complete program for the St. Charles appearance of the noted impresario has not been given, it is expected to include the Warsaw Concerto, Gershwin's Rhapsody in Blue, Chopin's Polonaise Opus 53, and Debussy's Clair de Lune. In these classical numbers he will play the first violin solo. He has also planned to include some semi-classical numbers and will also pay some bongie-woogie as a wind-up of his program.

During various concerts Rubinoff has played with such well known people as Cary Grant, Bing Crosby, Jimmy Durante, Bob Hope, Jack Benny, Alyce Faye and Joe Louis. At one of his largest attended concerts there were 225,000 in the audience at Grant Park, breaking an open air attendance record.

The ways and means committee of the three women's organizations are in charge of the tickets which will go on sale today. Mrs. Charles Wilkie and Mrs. Ted Malmgren are co-chairmen from the Young Mother's club; Mrs. William Fisher, of the Metropolitan Junior Woman's club and Miss Harriet Wing, of the St. Charles Woman's club. "The presentation of this famed violinist should be of interest to this community as well as the Fox River Valley" is the feeling of the sponsors of the concert.

Registration Booth To Be Stationed on Festival Grounds

For the convenience of registrants a booth will be placed on the grounds of the St. Charles Fall Festival. All those who have not registered and those who have changed their names or addresses are asked to contact the man in charge of the booth. It is necessary to have a correct listing before Nov. 1. This registration

HORSE SHOW AT WAYNESVILLE RESUME

Show Rin Promise On Sept 28

A benefit horse show staged by the St. Charles Club on Monday, Sept. 24, will be the 12th show which started out event but was cut off of the war and for the first time nor and Coonrod benefits from the show. It is hoped will be a humanitarian line.

Among the various farm teams are those include a fast becoming a mites hopes to in that class entered in hand. There will also a driving class. There will be devoted hunters, including course for hunt.

According to Hamill, chairman of the show, the wishes to see one prize.

Prizes awarded are J. McWill, Short, John Deh, Bernard, Billy, Morris, Ben, C. E. L. Zankland, Mrs. Edgerton, and Treumann.

Twelve awards will be one class in everything plus give prizes to show. It will show under Am. Assn. rules.

Cancer Co Reaches \$ Up to Date

St. Charles Cancer Society has just released its local treasurer the day shows it is due a \$ G. Beckman, J land, Mrs. De

WOMEN AT PARK TOMORROW

1 Games, Mid-day, Speakers, Singers on Program.

annual St. Charles Fall will open tomorrow evening 6 o'clock with entertainment the midway followed by Illinois softball tournament at seven. This event is staged for many years in Chamber of Commerce and American Legion at Pottawamook. It will be given Friday, Saturday and Monday.

entertainment will continue for children on Friday evening 7 to 8:30 p. m. Zippy the clown will entertain with fun for rides and ice cream for children. Live animal circus will be given after-noon. Then be presented for all Saturday, Aug. 31, District of the Pure Milk Assn. will at the park to hold the picnic in conjunction with festival. The day will begin softball game between Burlington and Wasco on the park at 10:30 a. m. A basket will be enjoyed by the members noon and at 2 p. m. E. W. will speak on "The Future of Dairying." A representative of the Chamber of Commerce welcome the group and A. C. Kane, Kane county farm advisor will speak about the evening at the amphitheatre. A home talent show will be given by the Rural Youth and members at 8 o'clock with midway and softball tournament. Each evening at least some of the awards will be given.

Bobby Crawford Singing with Evening Chorus

Bobby Crawford has been chosen bass soloist with a song which has made many of larger fairs in the central area. This chorus and a dancing group will travel into North Dakota and down to Oklahoma breaking up at the end of the tour. He needs no audience as the movie short which follows, "Patients Are In" proved his ability to present himself at ease to the public.

His chance came quite unexpectedly. Shortly after his discharge from the U. S. Army he was on the lookout for a position. One day on the way to Chicago saw humming and singing to himself en route, when Carl Cravatt, the entertainment producer heard him and invited him to come in for an audition. The chorus needed a bass soloist. "Bobby" fitted the bill so immediately hired. With two days of strenuous rehearsals, the group set out. Entertaining at the

On 64 and Bridge Talk of Motor Club

Widening of Rt. 64 on North ave. to six lanes into St. Charles was under discussion at the meeting of the Safety Council of the Chicago Motor Club at the meeting of the Fox River Council held at Elgin Tuesday. Plans were laid to try to promote widening of the road from Thatcher ave., River Forest to 25th st., Melrose Park and again six lanes from LaGrange rd. to St. Charles. The meeting was conducted by Benjamin P. Alahuler of Aurora, chairman of the council.

It was further proposed to widen the same route from two to four lanes from St. Charles to the Mississippi river. These proposals were brought up in the campaign sponsored by the motor club in saving lives, eliminating time wasting congestion in traffic jams on overloaded obsolete routes.

A third suggestion which is directly pertinent to St. Charles is the suggestion of a new bridge, or widen the present structure over the Fox river. Some of these projects were built in the 1920s when fewer cars were on the road and fewer people used cars for business. Today it is impossible to cross the local bridge on Sundays, holidays, noon hour and five o'clock without difficulty.

Other routes under discussion were No. 10 on which the council suggests a by-pass around Elgin and widen it to six lanes from Chicago out about 100 miles; modernize Lincoln highway from Geneva to the Mississippi river and to by-pass Aurora on Route 24. The group also went on record to provide wherever possible on all the routes for separation of opposing streams of traffic by overpasses and parkways.

Meeting Tuesday for On-the-Farm Training Program

On Tuesday evening, Sept. 3 at 8 p. m. a meeting is being held at the St. Charles Community High school for the purpose of organizing a Veteran's "On the Farm Training" program.

According to regulations set up by the State Dept of Vocational Agriculture the enrollment in such a class must be limited to 10 members. In case there are more than 10 veterans who wish to start this training program, first choice will be given to those living in the St. Charles Community High school district.

This program will include various phases of farming as related to the local community.

The purpose of this program is to give veterans who wish to farm the same opportunity for training as is being given those in trades and industry.

Beckman Chosen Head of Junior Conservation Club

Members of the Junior Conservation club selected Arthur Beckman as president at a meeting held Monday evening in the Community Center. Others elected were: James Winson, vice-president; Louis Goldmeyer, secretary; Jenn Kuehn, treasurer; Margaret Goldmeyer, publicity chairman.

Harold Baker, conservation in-

AMONG SLAIN AIRMEN

Four Others Lose Lives When Shot Down in Yugoslavia

Hope for the safety of Capt. Richard H. Claeys held for the past week has been abandoned when his sister, Miss Mary Claeys, 317 S. Second st., received a telegram signed by Ed. F. Witzell, adjutant general of the Army. He was listed as the pilot of the ill-fated plane which was shot down in Yugoslavia on Aug. 19 with four others aboard.

The telegram read: "Secretary of War has asked me to express his deep regret that your brother, Capt. Richard Claeys was believed to be killed in Yugo-Slavia Aug. 19, 1945, in aircraft shot down. Positive identification has not been made and investigation is



Capt. Richard H. Claeys

in progress. You will be advised as soon as definite information is obtained."

Others who have been believed to have perished with the C-47 which left from Udine Airfield, Italy, for Vienna, Austria, were: Capt. Harold F. Schreiber, New Albany, Ind., the only one definitely identified with dog tags; Capt. Glen H. Bristol, Freeston, Va.; Corp. Mathew Conko Monessen, Pa. and Corp. Chester J. Loefer of Enfield, N. J. In going over this route the Yugo-Slavic ministry asserted that 119 "Anglo-American military planes" violated Yugo-Slav territory between Aug. 10, the day after the first U. S. transport was shot down, and Aug. 20.

He spoke of that plane in his last letter home. On Aug. 17 he wrote the following letter which was received yesterday:

"Dear Mary:
"Well, the past week has been dull, but not without certain compensation. I have finally been sent back to Naples from the salt mines of Udine and sure glad to be back. I am starting to fly regular runs again and tomorrow am
(Continued on Last Page)

Waste Paper Drive September 7 under Boy Scout Guidance

An organized paper drive will

Here Sept. 20

David Rubineff, one of the greatest violinists of our age, will appear at the St. Charles Community High school auditorium on Sept. 20 in a concert of one and one-half hours duration. Sponsored by the Young Mother's club, and assisted by the Metropolitan Junior Woman's club and the St. Charles Woman's club a complete sell-out is expected before the day of the concert, with only about 800 seats available. The concert will begin at 8:30 p. m.

Although the complete program for the St. Charles appearance of the noted impressionist has not been given, it is expected to include the Warsaw Concerto, Gerahwin's Rhapsody in Blue, Chopin's Polonaise Opus 53, and Debussy's Claire de Lune. In these classical numbers he will play the first violin solo. He has also planned to include some semi-classical numbers and will also play some boogie-woogie as a wind-up of his program.

During various concerts Rubineff has played with such well known people as Cary Grant, Bing Crosby, Jimmy Durante, Bob Hope, Jack Benny, Alyce Faye and Joe Louis. At one of his largest attended concerts there were 225,000 in the audience at Grant Park, breaking an open air attendance record.

The ways and means committees of the three women's organizations are in charge of the tickets which will go on sale today. Mrs. Charles Witzell and Mrs. Ted Matignon are co-chairmen from the Young Mother's club; Mrs. William Fisher, the Junior Metropolitan woman's club and Mrs. Harriet Wing, the St. Charles Woman's club. "The presentation of this famed violinist should be of interest to this community as well as the Fox River Valley" is the feeling of the sponsors of the concert.

Registration Booth To Be Stationed on Festival Grounds

For the convenience of registrants a booth will be placed on the grounds of the St. Charles Fall Festival. All those who have not registered and those who have changed their names or addresses are asked to contact the man in charge of the booth. It is necessary to have a correct listing before Nov. 5. This registration booth will be open Friday and Saturday evening, also Monday afternoon and evening, according to Charles W. Lowry, county clerk.

Wayne Pony and Pet Show is a Huge Success

Merry Meadows Farm, the home of the Charles H. Coffin Jr. attracted more than a thousand spectators Sunday afternoon for the second annual Pony and Pet Show. This event netted a neat amount for the benefit of Geneva Community hospital children's fund during the day even though no admissions were charged. Collections were made for the parking space around the show ring.

More than 40 entries were made
(Continued on Last Page)

EARL HAHN MADE PRESIDENT OF FOX VALLEY PILOT'S CLUB
Earl Hahn of St. Charles was

AT WAYNE RESUME

Show Rites Promise On Sept

A benefit show staged by the Club on Sunday, the 12th which started on event but was of the war and for the first time and Communist benefits from the hoped will be a humanitarian in

Among the v farm teams at these include fast becoming committee hopes to in that class entered in hand There will also driving class will be devoted hunters, include course for hun

According to Hamill, chairman trants have their wishes to ing one group Others among are J. McWill Bart, John De Raymond Miss Merrill, Mrs. S. L. Reinhard Mrs. Montgomer-truckmen
Trophies awards will be one classes of everything plus give promises show. It will show under As Assn. rules.

Cancer C Reaches Up to Dat

St. Charles \$1,049.75 to er Society to not released local treasure the fine show ty is due a the Young Mo G. Beckman land, Mrs. B Mrs. Carl Ed and on the wa
Contributio ter also wa lawing is a he previously re Foreign War Lodge 30, I Ladies Aid (7 American Le St. Charles W. Norris, B club 285, C 388, St. Pat Cho R. Han Swanson, E Luth. Church Lutheran Ben Encouragem

Trailer E To Dem Food Pro

A large tr ing methods preservation tables will



367th, 368th, 369th, 423rd Squadrons, and service organizations
Thurleigh, Bedfordshire, England - September 1942-April 1945

306TH BOMBARDMENT GROUP ASSOCIATION

Ralph E. Bordner
131 E. Autumn Lane
East Peoria, IL 61611

Dear Russ:

I have dug up some material that I started to get on Rich Claeys some years ago. After you look it over you can contact me on it and I will be glad to help on getting more in on Rich.

As you know I attended Northern Ill Univ before World War II and had many friends from the St. Charles IL area. Rich and I talked about our mutual friends while I was at Thurleigh. Rich lived in the 3 man room next to Don Ross room and my room. George DeVak lived down the hall from us. I know Leon Risk lived with Rich while I was there.

As you will note I got some of material from the St. Charles IL library. I also got a lot info from Karl Madsen, I visited St. Charles and visited Karl and he and I went to the St. Charles Library and got the info on Rich. Karl was a high school class mate of Rich and told of many of Rich's antics at St. Charles., like buzzing the high school and nearly lost his flying license.

As you will note Karl and Rich visited one another while at Thurleigh. Karl has made a few of the reunions. He is a retired fireman at St. Charles IL. I know he would be glad to tell you more about Rich Claeys. I will be glad to contact him for you.

Russ I had the Chicago Tribune article on Rich dated in early Aug 1945. I understand he and 4 other were flying a C-47 to Greece and the Yugoslavians came up and shot them down. They are buried in a group grave at Arlington Cemetery. Nell and I visited the grave and I have picture of the grave. I will look for it. As for the incident not much was made of it because I think the U.S. did not want to make too much of it then.

I never flew a mission with Rich but made a lot of local flight with him. Rich was a AFN music fan and listen to it while flying. and some times on a mission he would listen to it and let the Co-pilot listen to command channel. Well, flak hit the oxygen tank back of the pilot and cut the radio cord and Rich could not hear the music. I was not there but the fellows told us about it.

As I said earlier he lived in a 3 man room next to me and we use to visit. I smoked then and he traded cigaretts for my candy. Leon Risk was his room mate and could give you some stories. George DeVak was OP Officer and use to put up with him begging to fly. He would not go on leave but would hang out in ops to fly. As I said earlier Karl Madsen went to high school with him and they were good friends.

I think Reg Thayer flew some missions with Rich. Also Don Ross lived in our barracks but I think he found a room in the 367th area after he became Gp Bomb and did not have contact iwth the guys in the old barracks.

The last story I heard on Rich that he was a personel pilot of a General after the war and was in the London area with him for a meeting . While Rcich had some free time and was offered a chance to fly down to Greece. Well as they passed near Yugoslavia their pilots came up and shot down the plane and killed all five people. And they are buried in a mass grave at Arlington. The only thing I know for sure of that story was they were shot down near Yugoslavia and were buried in Arlington Cemetary. Enough on Cleays.

I am including a check for 3 Sqdn Histories. I think I paid for one. Sorry I am late with the money. I am also sending some magazines in another envelope.

We are heading for Nell's home town tomorrow for a family reunion and ~~will be back here around the 21st.~~

I am sorry I do not have the Tribune article on Rich death but as you will note you can get it from the Chicago Tribune. I forgot when you said when you would be gone but I will get in touch sometime after I get back.

Wear in Farmersville La - near Nell's home town marker. On CBS this morning she had on the Weather part - the Announcer sitting in the Texas Raider The one Ellen Bungalow flies, I didn't see him.

Until later

Ralph.

P.S. I am down here with all the REBELS

New York Herald Tribune * 8/21/50

Absence of Honor Guard at Rite For Flyers Laid to State Dept.

1950

WASHINGTON, Aug. 19.—The Air Force was reported Saturday to have refused, at the request of the State Department, to provide an honor guard for the dedication of a monument to five American flyers shot down four years ago today by a Yugoslav fighter plane. The reason, it was said, was that the United States preferred to consider the incident closed in the light of its better relations today with the Tito government.

Arthur Bliss Lane, former Ambassador to Poland and former Minister to Yugoslavia, who presided at the dedication, said he had asked the Air Force for such an honor guard, but had been informed that "certain government departments" opposed the move because the Yugoslav incident was to be considered closed.

The monument was dedicated in Arlington National Cemetery Saturday in the presence of 150 persons, including members of the five flyers' families, exiled Yugoslav government officials and church representatives. Gen. Carl Spaatz, retired Air Force Chief, was present, but apparently no active members of the military attended except chaplains invited by Mr. Lane. State Department spokesmen said they had no knowledge of the matter and the Air Force in Washington and Air Force officers who could be reached said the flyers were shot down when their transport was shot down

by a Yugoslav Yak fighter. The transport, on a training flight from Vienna to Udine, Italy, inadvertently had flown over a strip of Yugoslav territory. The incident caused widespread indignation in the United States at the time, but the Yugoslav government later made official apologies and paid compensation to the families.

Large wreaths were laid before the monument—a five-foot-high marble shaft over the men's joint graves—one of them bearing a ribbon which said: "To the victims of the Communist crime."

The monument, paid for by private subscription, was inscribed with the names of the five flyers—Capt. Richard H. Clavey, of St. Charles, Ill.; Capt. Blen N. Preston, of Burley, Idaho; Capt. Harold F. Schreiber, of New Albany, Ind.; Corp. Matthew Comko, of Monessen, Pa., and Corp. Chester J. Lower, of Enfield, N. H.

Among the families attending was Marcia Jean Schreiber, six-year-old daughter of Capt. Schreiber. Others attending included former Polish Prime Minister Stanislaw Mikolajczyk and former Yugoslav Ambassador to the United States Constantin Fotitch, who resigned in 1944 when Marshal Tito assumed power in Yugoslavia.

An American Legion national guard of honor and representatives of other veterans, religious and Yugoslav organizations attended. No invitations were sent to the Yugoslav Embassy.

* This newspaper subsequently went out of business.

Reginald H. Thayer, Jr.

~~R.D. No. 1, Box 265~~
15 Closter Road
Palisades, NY 10964 - 1526
(914) 359-3207

Sept, 14, 1994

To Russ Strong
Re: Dick Claeys

Dear Russ;

Enclosed are copies of the below listed documents for you to use or not use, at your discretion, in writing your forthcoming article about Dick Claeys.

- (1) An article which appeared in the August 21, 1950 issue of the New York Herald Tribune about a monument in Arlington National Cemetery dedicated to Dick Claeys and four fellow aircrewmen who were shot down and killed ~~by~~ by a Yugoslav fighter plane on August 19, 1946. You will note that a request for an honor guard at the dedication ceremony was rejected because "certain government departments" opposed it because the incident was considered closed. Apparently the

Reginald H. Thayer, Jr.

~~R.D. No. 1, Box 265~~
15 Closter Road
Palisades, NY 10964 - 1526
(914) 359-3207

unidentified bureaucrats did not want to offend Tito's communist Yugoslavian government. The failure to provide the honor guard was an outrage.

(2) My letter of June 20, 1973 to Ed Jablonski. Much of this letter does not pertain to Dick Claeys, but the paragraphs outlined in red on pages 4, 5 and 6 do refer to him and might be of interest to you.

(3) Excerpt from the book, HIGH HONOR, published in 1989 by the Smithsonian Institution. This quotes comments I made about Dick Claeys (outlined in red on page 177)

I had the honor and privilege of

Reginald H. Thayer, Jr.

~~R.D. No. 1, Box 285~~

15 Closter Road

Palisades, NY 10964 - 1526

(914) 359-3207

flying with Dick Claeys on a number
of occasions, both in combat and on
practice missions and he was the
best pilot I ever flew with in
six years of military service.

He was a skilled pilot, and
an utterly fearless patriot

Sincerely

Reg Thayer

NS AT PARK MORROW

Games, Mid-
Speakers,
agers on Program.

Annual St. Charles Fall
will open tomorrow eve-
6 o'clock with entertain-
the midway followed by
ern Illinois softball tour-
ames at seven. This event
staged for many years
amber of Commerce and
ican Legion at Pottawa-
rk. It will be given Fri-
urday, Sunday and Mon-

ainment will continue for
ren on Friday evening
to 8:00 p. m. Zippy the
ill entertain with fun fo-
rides and ice cream for
les will be given after-

ulus Tops' live animal cir-
then be presented for all
aturday, Aug. 31. District
the Pure Milk Assn. will
t the park to hold the an-
n in conjunction with
ival. The day will begin
ftball game between Bur-
and Wasco on the park
at 10:30 a. m. A basket-
ll be enjoyed by the morn-
oon and at 2 p. m. E. W.
n will speak on "The Fu-
Dairying." A representa-
the Chamber of Commerce
come the group and A. C.
Kane county farm advis-
speak about the evening
at the amphitheatre.

Some talent show will be
by the Rural Youth and
umbers at 8 o'clock with
way and softball tourna-
ntinuing. Each evening at
ck some of the awards will
n away.

Barber Shop quartets and
will entertain on Sunday
at the amphitheatre at 8
and on Monday the finals
tournament will be played
out the day and the festi-
close at 11 p. m. with all
given and the midway
ed.

by Crawford ng with eling Chorus

by Crawford has been cho-
sane soloist with a song
which has made many of
rger fairs in the central
This chorus and a dancing
will travel into North Da-
nd down to Oklahoma be-
reaking up at the end of
r. He needs no audience
as the movie short which
own here last fall called
patients "Are In" proved his
to present himself at ease
the public.

chance came quite unex-
y. Shortly after his dis-
from the U. S. Army he
the lookout for a position
y on the way to Chicago
humming and singing to
aroute, when Carl Craw-
entertainment producer
ago, overheard him and in-
im to come in for an audi-
The chorus needed a base



Lieutenant Richard Claysy

Or would the project be over
the Fox river. Some of these
projects were built in the 1920s
when fewer cars were on the road
and fewer people used cars for
business. Today it is impossible to
cross the local bridge on Sundays,
holidays, noon hour and five o'-
clock without difficulty.

Other routes under discussion
were No. 20 on which the council
suggests a by-pass around Elgin
and widen it to six lanes, from
Chicago out about 100 miles; mod-
ernize Lincoln highway from Gen-
eva to the Mississippi river and to
by-pass Aurora on Route 84. The
group also went on record to pro-
vide wherever possible on all the
routes for separation of opposing
streams of traffic by means of
parkways.

Meeting Tuesday for On-the-Farm Training Program

On Tuesday evening, Sept. 3 at
8 p. m. a meeting is being held
at the St. Charles Community
High school for the purpose of or-
ganizing a Veteran's "On the
Farm Training" program.

According to regulations set up
by the State Dept. of Vocational
Agriculture the enrollment in such
a class must be limited to 10 mem-
bers. In case there are more than
10 veterans who wish to start this
training program, first choice will
be given to those living in the St.
Charles Community High school
district.

This program will include vari-
ous phases of farming as related
to the local community.

The purpose of this program is
to give veterans who wish to farm
the same opportunity for training
as is being given those in trades
and industry.

Beckman Chosen Head of Junior Conservation Club

Members of the Junior Con-
servation club selected Arthur Beck-
man as president at a meeting
held Monday evening in the Com-
munity Center. Others selected
were James Winston, vice-presi-

AMONG SLAIN AIRMEN

Four Others Lose Lives When Shot Down in Yugoslavia

Hope for the safety of Capt.
Richard H. Claysy held for the
past week has been abandoned
when his sister, Miss Mary Claysy,
17 B. Second st., received a tele-
gram signed by Ed. F. Wittsell,
adjutant general of the Army. He
was listed as the pilot of the ill-
fated plane which was shot down
in Yugoslavia on Aug. 19 with
four others aboard.

The telegram read: "Secretary
of War has asked me to express
his deep regret that your brother,
Capt. Richard Claysy was believed
to be killed in Yuvo-Slavia Aug.
19, 1946, in aircraft shot down.
Positive identification has not
been made and investigation is



Capt. Richard H. Claysy

in progress. You will be advised
as soon as definite information
is obtained."

Others who have been believed
to have perished with the C-47
which left from Udine Airfield,
Italy, for Vienna, Austria, were:
Capt. Harold F. Schreiber, New
Albany, Ind., the only one defi-
nitely identified with dog tags;
Capt. Blen H. Bristol, Freestons,
Va.; Corp. Mathew Conko Monce-
sen, Pa. and Corp. Chester J. Loe-
wer of Enfield, N. J. In going over
this route the Yugo-Slavic milit-
ary asserted that 110 "Anglo-Am-
erican military planes" violated
Yugo-Slav territory between Aug.
10, the day after the first U. S.
transport was shot down, and
Aug. 20.

He spoke of that plane in his
last letter home. On Aug. 17 he
wrote the following letter which
was received yesterday:

"Dear Mary:
"Well, the past week has been
dull, but not without certain com-
pensation. I have finally been sent
back to Naples from the salt
mines of Udine and sure glad to
be back. I am starting to fly regu-
lar runs again and tomorrow and
(Continued on Last Page)

Waste Paper Drive

Here Sept. 20

David Rubino, one of the
greatest violinists of our age, will
appear at the St. Charles Commu-
nity High school auditorium on
Sept. 20 in a concert of one and
one-half hours duration. Spon-
sored by the Young Mother's club,
and assisted by the Metropolitan
Junior Woman's club and the St.
Charles Woman's club a complete
sell-out is expected before the day
of the concert, with only about
800 seats available. The concert
will begin at 8:30 p. m.

Although the complete program
for the St. Charles appearance of
the noted impresario has not been
given, it is expected to include
the Warsaw Concerto, Gershwin's
Rhapsody in Blue, Chopin's Polon-
aise Opus 53, and Debussy's
Clair de Lune. In these classical
numbers he will play the first vi-
olin solo. He has also planned to
include some semi-classical num-
bers and will also pay some boogie-
woogie as a wind-up of his pro-
gram.

During various concerts Rubin-
off has played with such well
known people as Cary Grant, Bing
Crosby, Jimmy Durante, Bob
Hope, Jack Benny, Alyce Faye
and Joe Louis. At one of his lar-
gest attended concerts there were
225,000 in the audience at Grant
Park, breaking an open air attend-
ance record.

The ways and means commit-
tees of the three women's organ-
izations are in charge of the tick-
ets which will go on sale today.
Mrs. Charles Wiltale and Mrs. Ted
Malmgren are co-chairmen from
the Young Mother's club; Mrs.
William Fisher of the Junior Metro-
politan woman's club, and Miss
Harriet Wing of the St. Charles
Woman's club. The presentation
of this famed violinist should be
of interest to the community as
well as the Fox River Valley" is
the feeling of the sponsors of the
concert.

Registration Booth To Be Stationed on Festival Grounds

For the convenience of regis-
trants a booth will be placed on
the grounds of the St. Charles
Fall Festival. All those who have
not registered and those who have
changed their names or addresses
are asked to contact the man in
charge of the booth. It is neces-
sary to have a correct listing be-
fore Nov. 5. This registration
booth will be open Friday and Sat-
urday evening, also Monday after-
noon and evening, according to
Charles W. Lowry, county clerk.

Wayne Pony and Pet Show Is a Huge Success

Merry Meadows Farm, the home
of the Charles H. Coffin Jr. at-
tracted more than a thousand
spectators Sunday afternoon for
the second annual Pony and Pet
Show. This event netted a neat
amount for the benefit of Gene-
ve Community hospital children's
fund during the day even though
no admissions were charged. Col-
lections were made for the park-
ing space around the show ring.
More than 40 entries were made
(Continued on Last Page)

AT WAYN RESUME

Show Rir Promise On Septe

A benefit has
staged by the
Club on Sunday,
be the 12th sho
which started on
event but was
of the war and
for the first tim-
nor and Commu
benefit from the
hoped will be we
humanitarian in

Among the v
farm teams at
these include
fast becoming
mittee hopes to
in that class
tered in hand
There will also
driving class.
will be devote
hunters, inclu
course for hun

According
Hamill, chairm
trants have
their wishes to
ing one group
Others assisting
are J. McWill
Butt, John DeJ
Raymond, Mitch
Hercil, Mrs. C
E. E. Reinhard
Mrs. Montgomery
ton Throckm
Daphnes. A
awards will be
one classes of
everything vis
give promises
show. It will
show under As
Assn. rules.

Cancer C Reaches \$ Up to Dat

St. Charles
\$1,049.78 to
er Society to
not released
local treasure
the fine show
ty is due a g
the Young Mo
G. Beckman,
land, Mrs. B
Mrs. Carl Er
ried on the wo

Contributio
ter also was
loying is a list
previously re
Foreign Wars
Lodge 20, I
Ladies Aid (I
American Le
St. Charles 3
W. Norris, R
club 225, Ce
262, St. Pat
Clee, B. Hen
Swanberg, K
Luth. Church
Lutheran Bro
Encampment

Trailer E To Deme Food Pre

Claeys Shot Down

(Continued from Page 1)
scheduled to go to Rome, Pisa, Udine (night) and remain overnight at Vienna. We have about 27 new men here and none of them seem to have had much practical experience in flying.

"That plane I spoke of last week as being lost was forced down in Yugo-Slavia and its crew interned. The newspapers are making quite a story of it.

"Well, it's hot today and the Bay of Naples looks inviting. May buy a jeep soon now that I'm back in Naples.

"The dog is getting bigger every day and has a terrific appetite. He looks like a skunk and smells that way sometimes. More later."

Relatives of Captain Claeys, in addition to his sister, Mary, include a brother, Frank, also of 317 S. Second st., and two other sisters, Mrs. Hazel Zudis, 309 Prairie st., and Sister Mary Louise of the Order of St. Joseph at La-Grange.

Claeys was graduated at the St. Charles Community High school and was a meter reader for the city before entering the service. He took flying lessons at the airport east of the city and enlisted in the regular army in March of 1941, months before the Pearl Harbor incident. In the fall of the same year, he was discharged for being over age and went to Canada and enlisted in the Royal Canadian Air Force in which he held the rank of Sergeant Pilot.

After the United States entered the war, he decided he would like to join the boys of his own country so in May, 1943, he transferred to the U. S. Army Air Forces with the commission of Flight Officer, receiving his gold bar in July of 1944. He was quickly promoted with his interest and knowledge of flying and was given many honors while with the 8th Air Force stationed in England. He flew 71 missions during that time and registered for flights when he was supposed to be on leave.

Honored many times for bravery and meritorious service, he was the owner of the Distinguished Flying Cross, the Air Medal and more than 10 Oak Leaf Clusters. When home on his overseas leave he was given 30 days and in commenting said, "I can see everyone I know in 10 days." He went back and they accepted him for duty. This is just one sample of his wonderful sense of humor. He looked on the bright side of everything.

He was popular and well liked wherever he went as he was straightforward. Known through his entertainment and activities with the disbanded Little Theatre group he will be remembered in

his action in "Petticoat Fever" and "Christmas Barricade." Quoting one of his favorite expressions "he was always on the beam" and his letters were just as humorous. He will live as a friend and patriotic son of St. Charles.

Trailer Exhibit

(Continued from Page 1)
on the best methods of canning and preservation.

The exhibit includes something about each method commonly used. A drawing showing the construction of an outdoor storage pit where root vegetables and some fruits may be stored is on display as is also a small home-made dehydrator, for housewives interested in drying fruits and vegetables. Both glass jars and tin cans may be processed in the pressure cooker or the water bath cooker on display, and samples of each are shown. Included also is a home style freezer and storage unit with samples of correct wrappings and containers for frozen foods. Free booklets on proper canning and preservation methods will be distributed.

The trailer in which the exhibit is displayed has been set up as a model kitchen and should attract the attention of all women interested in modern kitchen equipment.

Conceived by Lester J. Norris, chairman of the Illinois Garden and Home Food Preservation committee, the exhibit has been touring the state since Aug. 6. This is the 27th stop on the tour which has included the Illinois State Fair at Springfield and several county fairs. There are still 19 more cities on the itinerary of the display including three fairs before the tour is ended on Sept. 20.

When the trailer was launched, Norris said, "It is more important than ever that we save all the food possible to help the nation meet its commitments in alleviating the world famine and to take as much of the burden as possible off the family food budget."

Pet Show

(Continued from Page 1)
in the costume parade and judges were forced to make the first prize a tie because of the cleverness of the ideas. Donald McDonald of Bartlett was dressed as an Indian with copper colored paint, authentic Indian trappings on his pony which he rode bareback before the crowds. William "Wink" Bangs of Geneva was tied on the honors. His pony was converted into an elephant, with trunk, while the owner was dressed as an elephant boy leading the animal which had his pet dog on a box on top like a rajah.

Michael Orr, 4, took a prize as

a balloon dancer whose costume was scanty and whose "bubble" was a huge rubber ball. Louis Swift III of Wheaton, 10, was a prospector to the west with all his earthly belongings, including miner's tools, and mattress packed on his tiny Sicilian donkey.

Wendy and Cynthia Currier of Lake Forest entered their white shepherd dog which pulled a covered wagon with one of the girls as passenger. This took first prize in the pet dog class. "Cubby" a pet raccoon owned by Glen Ives of Wayne took first in the pet division; "Galloping Gus," a donkey owned by Louis Swift III of Wheaton took second; "Chippy," a squirrel owned by Shirley Cole of Chicago, was third, and fourth went to "Ferdinand," a calf owned by Barbara Mansfield of Bartlett.

In the dog division, first prize went to Joe Migely of Wayne for his pointer "Sam"; second to Cornelius Nelson of Elgin for his Chihuahua, and third to "Migs" a bulldog exhibited by Sheryle Reese of Elgin.

The greased pig was the cause of much amusement during the afternoon by all who attended. It was eventually caught by Charles

Clark of Wayne after 40 entries had tried in vain to catch this heavy amount of fresh pork. Mrs. John McQuinn of Leland and Mrs. Charles Coffin out-hopped 30 other couples in the three-legged race. Mr. and Mrs. Gerwith Hamilton of Wayne placed second in this adult stunt.

Horsemanship entries were so large divisions were broken into two. In the 18 to 18 year old class Carol Phillips of Wayne on "Belle" won first place. Charles Dennehy of Lake Forest, riding "Brownie," won second place. Arin Evans of Hinsdale on her horse "Tammerisaine" and Dorothy Lindsay of St. Charles atop "Sir Frederick" won third and fourth prizes.

Virginia Dennehy of Lake Forest on her horse "Rarity" won first place in the 9 to 12 year horsemanship division. Ginia Saun of Wayne on "Dinah," Sammy Ulaker riding "Mystery" and Car Weler of St. Charles on "Oak," won second, third and fourth.

In the eight years and under horsemanship division Susie Coffin and her horse "Wishful Think ing." took first place. Bonnie Orr of Wayne and her horse "Neeah" John Cheeseman of Geneva and

ST. CHARLES

INVITES YOU TO THE

FALL FESTIVAL

AUGUST 30-31 and SEPTEMBER 1

IN BEAUTIFUL

Pottawatomie

Auspices of American Legion
and St. Charles Chamber of Commerce

FRIDAY, AUGUST 30

6:00 P.M. Opening of St. Charles 1946
Fall Festival Entertainment on
the Midway

7:00 P.M. Northern Illinois Softball Tour-
nament Games.

SUNDAY

6:30 P.M.

Take a Taxi Executive's word for it!

Duss,

I DON'T REMEMBER IF
I SENT YOU THIS LOCAL PAPER
STORY ON BICK.

PAUL MASLEN

Closter Road
Palisades, New York 10964
June 20, 1973

Mr. Edward Jablonski
c/o Doubleday & Company, Inc.
Garden City, New York 11530

Dear Mr. Jablonski:

I have read your books, Flying Fortress, Terror From The Sky, Tragic Victories, Outraged Skies, and Wings of Fire. I was fascinated by all five of the books, but most especially Flying Fortress. Having flown seventy-nine bombing missions over Europe as a B-17 bombardier in World War II, I read Flying Fortress with a critical eye. I was tremendously impressed with the way you accurately captured and portrayed the flavor of that airplane, its era, and the men who flew it.

Reading these books prompted me to dig into my old files, photo albums and mementoes and "compare notes" with you.

I find that I have one of the original prints of the photo on page 232 of Flying Fortress, showing a B-17 going down over Naples after losing a wing. It happened on August 1, 1943, a day I will never forget, as I was scheduled to fly in that plane on that mission! I was with the 97th Bomb Group at the time, stationed in North Africa. After attending the pre-mission briefing I was replaced at the last minute by a fellow bombardier named Frank Bigelow, as I had a bad case of dysentery from over-ripe watermelons bought from the local Arabs. The photo in your book was taken by pure chance when one of the other planes in the formation turned on its camera to photograph the bomb strike after releasing its bombs. No one even knew the falling plane had been photographed until the bomb strike photos were developed that evening. Later in the war we learned that Frank Bigelow, the bombardier who had taken my place that day, and several others including the pilot (named Rast) and the co-pilot (named Alexander Alvarado) had safely bailed out and were prisoners of war.

In September 1945, when I was being mustered out, I ran into Frank Bigelow at Fort Dix, N. J. It was an interesting reunion! He was so glad to be back in the States after almost two years as a prisoner of war that he didn't even complain about the quirk of fate that put him in my place on that mission!

I flew fifty bombing missions with the 97th Bomb Group from June 1943 to December 1943, while based in North Africa. During that period we bombed Sicily, Sardinia, Italy, Greece, France, Germany and Austria.

* Our Group led the first bombing raid on Rome (July 19, 1943), and Jimmy Doolittle flew in the lead plane as mission commander that day. I still have the target map and target photos I carried on that mission. The photos have the Vatican and other church buildings outlined in bold white lines and labelled with the warning "MUST ON NO ACCOUNT BE BOMBED". The warning must have been heeded because it was later announced that only one bomb had gone astray and slightly damaged one of the "off limits" buildings. All the other bombs had landed in the assigned target areas. (ours was a railroad marshalling yard). A few days after that mission we learned that Mussolini had been deposed in the furor following the bombing.

? Our Group, the 97th, also led the first air raid on France by American bombers based in Africa, and I have a photo of the first bomb dropping from my plane which led that raid. My recollection is that we also participated in (and perhaps led) the first raid on Germany by African based bombers, a raid in the Augsburg area.

During most of my time with the 97th the Group Commander was Colonel Leroy Raney, an outstanding and inspiring combat leader. While he might not have invented the tactics (perhaps Lemay did) Col. Raney introduced us to the following tactics which were remarkably successful:

- (1.) Taking off three at a time (in a shallow "VEE") instead of one at a time. This cut down on the time it took the entire formation to form up, thereby saving fuel as well as time.

* We led the heavy bombers. I believe the mediums, (B-25's & B-26's) might have preceded us.

(2.) Elimination of evasive action on the bomb run because (a) the Norden bomb sight could not cope with a zig-zag flight path and (b) zig-zagging merely prolonged the time under fire in the target area.

(3.) Establishment of a very shallow "VEE" formation in combat, like this

instead of this

The shallow "VEE" formation enabled us to bring more guns to bear on enemy fighters attacking us head on or from the rear. Also, it presented them with a far more difficult target when they attacked us from the side.

(4.) -The practice of having the lead bombardier use the bomb sight, with the other bombardiers releasing their bombs when they saw him release his.

These tactics cut down our losses and increased the effectiveness and accuracy of our bombing.

Following my fifty missions with the 97th Bombardment Group I returned to the United States, became an instructor, and got bored. After several unsuccessful attempts to apply through normal channels for a return to combat duty I wrote a letter in longhand to General Arnold in Washington and dropped it in a mail box. I still have a copy of the letter, which requested combat duty in B-17's in the 8th Air Force (England). I also still have the reply I received. General Arnold cut through the red tape and I was sent to England where I joined the 306th Bombardment Group near Thurleigh, for another combat tour in B-17's.

I also have one of the original prints of the photo of the mid-air collision depicted on page 101 of your book, Flying Fortress. I happened to witness that collision which occurred

right over our airbase at Thurleigh. It was late 1944 or early 1945. The caption in your book says it happened "while forming for a mission." If you'll pardon me for contradicting you, I believe it happened at dusk while many bomb groups were milling around, groping for their home bases (or any base) in the mist and gathering darkness, while returning from their missions (not while forming up to go out). Two bomber groups suddenly approached each other head-on, and to the surprise of those of us who saw it happen, only two planes collided. The two groups were at a low altitude and my recollection is that there were no survivors of the collision. This slight inaccuracy (they were coming back, not going out) is the only discrepancy I found in your book, Flying Fortress.

I was with the 306th from September 1944 until the war in Europe ended. Inasmuch as we had clear cut air superiority during most of that period my combat tour with the 306th was, in some respects less eventful than my 1943 tour with the 97th Group.

An event which stands out in my memory of flying with the 306th was the maximum effort launched by the 8th Air Force on December 24, 1944, the day before Christmas. Because of bad weather most (or perhaps all) of the 8th Air Force bombers had been grounded for a week or so during the Battle of the Bulge in December 1944. When the weather improved on the 24th we went out in greater strength than ever before. It was a real mess when all the American planes were returning to land after their daylight missions, while the RAF was taking off to start their night missions.

My most vivid memory of my combat duty with the 306th was probably not an isolated event, but rather my association with a pilot named Richard Claeys from Illinois. He was one of the real heroes of World War II, and he was an unsung hero. He was turned down for pilot training by the U. S. for being over-age (28) around the beginning of World War II and joined the Royal Canadian Air Force. After getting his pilot's wings he managed to transfer to the U. S. Army Air Forces and was assigned to fly transport planes. He applied seventeen times for transfer to bombers before he succeeded in getting such a transfer. Around August 1944 he was assigned to the 306th as a B-17 pilot.

His rank at that time was Flight Officer. He rapidly established himself as an outstanding bomber pilot and was promoted to second lieutenant, first lieutenant and captain in a few months. He tried to fly on every mission. When his regular crew had a day off he always volunteered to fly with another crew, and as a result he managed to complete seventy-one missions by the time the war in Europe ended. (At that time a normal tour for B-17's based in England was thirty missions for members of lead crews and thirty-five for others).

Dick Claeys was not a fanatic or a nut. He was just a damned good bomber pilot who loved to fly and wanted to fly bombing missions as long as there was a need for bombing missions. I flew with him on a number of missions and it never occurred to him that he might not return from the mission. His calm confidence usually instilled confidence in those who flew with us, although once in a while someone voiced the old theory "Their number is coming up soon"!

It was customary for a Colonel or Brigadier General to fly as commander in the lead plane of the lead group when the Eighth Air Force sent its bombers over Europe in World War II on a maximum effort raid of a thousand or more bombers. My recollection is that Dick Claeys commanded the lead plane of the lead group at least once as a Captain and once as a First Lieutenant.

Another event which stands out in my memory was a mission I flew in the lead plane of a maximum effort raid over the Ruhr Valley in the waning days of the European war. As usual we were briefed for a primary target with alternative targets to consider, depending on weather and visibility. The primary target was obscured by clouds. In such cases the standard procedure was for the pilot, navigator and bombardier in the lead plane to have a quick conference over the inter-phone, choose one of the alternate targets and then head for it, with no inter-plane discussion. The other planes would then follow. On this particular occasion, the pilot Dick Claeys calmly announced over the air to the rest of the formation, (in the clear, not in code) that inasmuch as we couldn't see our primary target (which he named) we were going to go clobber the secondary target (which he also named). We then wheeled around, followed by a thousand or so bombers and hit the secondary target.

We encountered flak but didn't see a single enemy fighter plane. The significance of the event didn't hit me at the time, but it should have. From the day I first stepped into a B-17, back in late 1942 I had been told "Don't break radio silence over enemy territory, or the fighters and flak will get you". Here we were over the Ruhr Valley, Germany's industrial heartland, calmly announcing to the world what target we were going to bomb, and we bombed it and got back safely. It was "airpower" in the true sense of the word, and was quite a contrast with some of the missions I had flown earlier in the war.

Dick Claeys, who was invincible in World War II, was killed after the war in August 1946 (in "peacetime") while piloting an unarmed transport plane which he inadvertently flew over Yugoslavia. His plane was shot down by a Yugoslavian fighter plane and it touched off a brief international crisis which made the headlines for several days and was then forgotten.

There is a monument in Arlington National Cemetery honoring Dick Claeys and the other four Americans who died with him. I have a news clipping from the August 19, 1950 issue of the New York Herald Tribune stating that when the monument was dedicated that day to the five flyers, the Air Force, at the request of the State Department, refused to provide an honor guard because "the incident was closed in the light of better relations with the Tito government". It was an ironic and sad ending to the story of a gallant combat flyer.

I have read many aviation books in the past twenty-five years and have enjoyed yours the most. I have also enjoyed reminiscing in this letter and would like to meet you. The jackets of your books say that you live in New York City. My office is in the city in the Rockefeller Center area. Could we get together some day at your convenience for lunch or a cocktail?

*Enclosed list
of the 7,9 targets
I bombed.*

Sincerely,

Reg Thayer

Reginald H. Thayer, Jr.

EDWARD JABLONSKI
161 WEST 75TH STREET
NEW YORK, N. Y. 10023

29 June 1973

Mr Reginald H. Thayer, Jr.,
Closter road,
Palisades, New York 10964

Dear Mr Thayer,

Doubleday has forwarded your fascinating letter; one, I must say, that made me feel good. I am grateful for all the good material you furnished and, of course, the good words about my efforts which attempt to tell just how much was contributed by air power to ending the Second World War--and especially how much it should contribute to deterring a Third.

There are two extraordinary points that I noted in your letter that pertain especially to a couple of my own projects. On page 2 you mention the first bombing of Rome and in your Combat Record with the 97th Group this mission is noted with the added, pencilled, notation "Gen'l. Doolittle". It so happens that, in collaboration with Lowell Thomas, I am working on a biography of Jimmy Doolittle. Have been now for several months. He is, by the way, quite a man.

The other point I shall tell you about when we meet; I think it will surprise you.

One day next week perhaps (while the Watergate Follies are off the air) we might get together (towards the end of the week--or else sometime the week after that--whatever is best for you). I have your NY number and will call you, or you might call me (TR 3-7514).

Thanks again for a most interesting letter; look forward to meeting with you.

All best wishes.

Sincerely,

Edward Jablonski

Thurs evening, he called Doozi and urged that I write a book, combining the humor with the war stories!"

*He has been
commissioned
by Doubleday to
write a history of
the 97th Bomb Group!*

*Meet Doozi.. 7/5/73
11:30 AM
Good visit*

SERVICE NOTES

Lt. Col. James Davis who is stationed at Indianapolis, Ind., spent the week end at the home of his brother and family, the Mark Davises.

Capt. Richard H. Claeys is busy at the other end of the world piloting planes. His late note mentioned that he is stationed at Naples, Italy and flies to Cairo, Egypt and other points on the Mediterranean sea sometimes having his meals at three different countries each day.

Memorials Held For Capt. Claeys; Burial at Arlington

A memorial mass will be recited for Capt. Richard H. Claeys at 10:00 o'clock Sunday morning, Sept. 8. This is sponsored by Martin Mallesale Iron Co. and special music will be given for the occasion.

Tribute was paid to the St. Charles Yank by the thousands who attended the finale of the settlement games at Pottawatomie park Monday evening when the tents of the local flier were outgled by Supt. of Schools George E. Thompson. His name will be engraved on the memorial plaque with other fliers who lost their lives during the last war. Taps were played and the flag lowered at the conclusion of the service.

Claeys was shot down with four other fliers in Yugoslavia on Aug. 10. The bodies of the five men have now been brought to the American zone and draped with flags ready for shipment to Arlington National Cemetery, Va., where they will lie with other honored American war dead.

Baker Wants to Make Dough Some Other Way; Sells

The Hoffman Bakery at 113 E.

Hack Ko Trophy in Herring Pigeon Race

A pigeon from Skyloft was in first in the second annual race sponsored by the St. Charles Herring Club Sunday. The bird owned by Hack Kohlert and has been presented the trophy donated by the Chronicle Publishing Co. This is a silver trophy which can be retained by the winner.

It is estimated that this year's bird flew the 200 miles in less than four hours from Delmar, Md. He must have flown about 1,112 yards per minute. A pigeon owned by Alfred Fisher came in ten minutes later and one owned by George Copper came in a third. Joseph Regelbrugge, secretary of the club, acts as judge.

There were 135 birds shipped from St. Charles on the CGW R midnight train Saturday arriving at 4 a. m. Sunday. The birds were fed heavily, packed 35 in a bag and sealed before shipment. The agent released them Sunday morning at 9:30.

A futurity race will be run on Sunday, Oct. 7. This will be the last race of the season and entrants have placed five pigeons each making a total of 55 to be released at Dyessville, Va.

Capt. Rich Claeys Buried at Arlington National Cemetery

One of the most impressive funerals ever held was given at Arlington cemetery for the five American fliers who were shot down over Yugoslavia. Capt. Richard Claeys with Capt. Ben H. Freestone of Burley, Idaho; Cpl. Harold F. Schreiber, New Albany, Ind.; Cpl. Matthew W. Conko, Monessan, Pa., and Cpl. Chester Lover of Enfield, N. H., were given the honors of the nation.

Those from St. Charles who attended the services were M. Mary Claeys and Mrs. Hazel Zanis, sisters of the flier; Francis Claeys, brother; Joseph Gaffney representing the American Legion and Laverne Lindgren, representing the Veterans of Foreign Wars. Members of the families of the other fliers and high military officials, including W. Stuart Syngton, assistant secretary of war; Gen. Carl Spaatz, head of the Army Air Forces, and Gen. Thomas Handy, representing the chief of staff.

The funeral cortege of the coaches moved at slow cadence. (Continued on Last Page)

ST. CHARLES CHRONICLE, THURSDAY, OCTOBER 3, 1946

Democratic Caravan To Stop at Geneva Monday at 2:30

The Democratic state caravan consisting of state candidates and Mr. Kells the state chairman of the Democratic state central committee will be at Geneva Monday, Oct. 7 at 2:30 p. m. in the city hall building. All county candidates will also participate in the meeting. The public is invited.

The state candidates are: Sam Keys for treasurer; C. H. Engle for Supt. of Public Instruction; Emily Taft Douglas, for Representative in Congress at Large; James E. Etherton, Don Forsyth and Albert H. Wohlers for Trustees of the University of Illinois.

Claeys Rites —

(Continued from Page 1)

behind the Army band and military escort of 500 Army men in uniform over the half mile from the ramp to the 30 foot wide grave site overlooking the Potomac and capitol. The families had been quartered at Hotel Statler and taken to the chapel at Ft. Myers at 12:50 in one group.

The organist played "Nearer My God to Thee" as the caskets draped in flags were wheeled from the chapel. A Catholic and Protestant chaplain rendered prayers and after solemn playing of "Mother Dear Oh Pray for Me." The Army band of 90 pieces led the procession, followed by 50 Army Air Force personnel, and the family cars.

The band played "Onward Christian Soldiers" which was followed by prayers, salutes and taps. The ceremony ended after the flags were neatly folded and handed to a member of each family.

Tomato Scald

Tomato fruits may be scalded by intense sunlight. The exposed area changes to a white, hard, sunken spot which disfigures the fruit and may permit invasion by fruit rotting organisms.

Helicopter Mail —

(Continued from Page 1)

hat which was brought in contained 156 letters and papers.

On hand to receive the plane besides those named were Supt. of Schools George E. Thompson, Fred Kaiver, representing the Rotary club; Joe Anderson, the Chamber of Commerce; Karl G. Gartner, the American Legion; Frank Claeys the VFW; a number of professional and amateur

SERVICE NOTES

1st. Col. James Davis who is stationed at Indianapolis, Ind., spent the week end at the home of his brother and family, the Mark Davises.

Capt. Richard H. Claeys is busy at the other end of the world piloting planes. His late note mentioned that he is stationed at Naples, Italy and flies to Cairo, Egypt and other points on the Mediterranean sea sometimes having his meals at three different countries each day.

Memorials Held For Capt. Claeys; Burial at Arlington

A memorial mass will be recited for Capt. Richard H. Claeys at nine o'clock Sunday morning, Sept. 8. This is sponsored by Moline Malleable Iron Co. and special music will be given for the occasion.

Tribute was paid to the St. Charles Yank by the thousands who attended the finals of the football games at Pottawatomie park Monday evening when the feats of the local flier were eulogized by Supt. of Schools George E. Thompson. His name will be engraved on the memorial plaque with other players who lost their lives during the last war. Taps were played and the flag lowered at the conclusion of the service.

Claeys was shot down with four other fliers in Yugoslavia on Aug. 19. The bodies of the five men have now been brought to the American zone and draped with flags ready for shipment to Arlington National Cemetery, Va., where they will lie with other honored American war dead.

Baker Wants to Make Dough Some Other Way; Sells

The Hoffman Bakery at 113 E.

Hack Koblert Trophy Horning Pigeon Race

A pigeon from Skyloft came in first in the second annual race sponsored by the St. Charles Horning Club Sunday. The bird owned by Hack Koblert and has been presented the trophy donated by the Chronicle Publishing Co. This is a silver trophy which can be retained by the winner.

It is estimated that this young bird flew the 200 miles in less than four hours from Oelwein, Ia. He must have flown about 1,100 yards per minute. A pigeon owned by Alfred Fisher came in ten minutes later and one owned by George Coppert came in a close third. Joseph Regelbrugge, secretary of the club, acts as judge.

There were 135 birds shipped from St. Charles on the CGW R. midnight train Saturday arriving at 4 a. m. Sunday. The birds were fed heavily, packed 35 in a basket and sealed before shipment. The agent released them Sunday morning at 9:30.

A futurity race will be run next Sunday, Oct. 7. This will be the last race of the season and entrants have placed five pigeons each making a total of 55 to be released at Dyersville, Ia.

Capt. Rich Claeys Buried at Arlington National Cemetery

One of the most impressive funerals ever held was given at Arlington cemetery for the five American fliers who were shot down over Yugoslavia. Capt. Richard Claeys with Capt. Bien H. Probst, Harold F. Schreiber, New Alban, Ind.; Cpl. Matthew W. Comko, Monessan, Pa., and Cpl. Chester Lover of Enfield, N. H., were given the honors of the nation.

Those from St. Charles who attended the services were Mrs. Mary Claeys and Mrs. Hazel Zaleski, sisters of the flier; Fred Claeys, brother; Joseph Gaffne representing the American Legion and Laverne Lindgren, representing the Veterans of Foreign Wars. Members of the families of the other fliers and high military officials, including W. Stuart Synge, assistant secretary of war, Gen. Carl Spaatz, head of Army Air Forces, and Gen. Thomas Handy, representing the chief of staff.

The funeral cortege of the coaches moved at slow cadence. (Continued on Last Page)

Democratic Caravan To Stop at Geneva Monday at 2:30

The Democratic state caravan consisting of state candidates and Mr. Kells the state chairman of the Democratic state central committee will be at Geneva Monday, Oct. 7 at 2:30 p. m. in the city hall building. All county candidates will also participate in the meeting. The public is invited.

The state candidates are Sam Keys for treasurer; C. H. Eagle for Supt. of Public Instruction; Emily Taft Douglas, for Representative in Congress at Large; James E. Etherton, Don Forsyth and Albert H. Wohlers for Trustees of the University of Illinois.

Claeys Rites

(Continued from Page 1)

behind the Army band and military escort of 500 Army men in uniform over the half mile from the chapel to the 30 foot wide grave site overlooking the Potomac and capitol. The families had been quartered at Hotel Statler and taken to the chapel at Ft. Myers at 12:50 in one group.

The organist played "Nearer My God to Thee" as the caskets draped in flags were wheeled from the chapel. A Catholic and Protestant chaplain rendered prayers and after solemn playing of "Mother Dear Oh Pray for Me." The Army band of 20 pieces led the procession, followed by 50 Army Air Force personnel, and the family cars.

The band played "Onward Christian Soldiers" which was followed by prayers, salutes and taps. The ceremony ended after the flags were neatly folded and handed to a member of each family.

Tomato Scald

Tomato fruits may be scalded by intense sunlight. The exposed area changes to a white, hard sunken spot which disfigures the fruit and may permit invasion by fruit rotting organisms.

Helicopter Mail

(Continued from Page 1)

bag which was brought in contained 156 letters and papers.

On hand to receive the plane besides those named were Supt. of Schools George E. Thompson, Fred Kaiser, representing the Rotary club; Joe Anderson, the Chamber of Commerce; Karl G. Gartner, the American Legion; Frank Claeys the VFW; a number of professional and amateur

Claeys Shot Down —

(Continued from Page 1)
scheduled to go to Rome, Pisa, Udine (ugh!) and remain overnight at Vienna. We have about 27 new men here and none of them seem to have had much practical experience in flying.

"That plane I spoke of last week as being lost was forced down in Yugo-Slavia and its crew interned. The newspapers are making quite a story of it.

"Well, it's hot today and the Bay of Naples looks inviting. May buy a jeep soon now that I'm back in Naples.

"The dog is getting bigger every day and has a terrific appetite. He looks like a skunk and smells that way sometimes. More later."

Relatives of Captain Claeys, in addition to his sister, Mary, include a brother, Frank, also of 317 E. Second st., and two other sisters, Mrs. Hazel Zodia, 309 Prairie st., and Sister Mary Louise of the Order of St. Joseph at La-Grange.

Claeys was graduated at the St. Charles Community High school and was a motor roader for the city before entering the service. He took flying lessons at the airport east of the city and enlisted in the regular army in March of 1941, months before the Pearl Harbor incident. In the fall of the same year, he was discharged for being over age and went to Canada and enlisted in the Royal Canadian Air Force in which he held the rank of Sergeant Pilot.

After the United States entered the war, he decided he would like to join the boys of his own country so in May, 1943, he transferred to the U. S. Army Air Forces with the commission of Flight Officer, receiving his gold bar in July of 1944. He was quickly promoted with his interest and knowledge of flying and was given many honors while with the 8th Air Force stationed in England. He flew 71 missions during that time and registered for flights when he was supposed to be on leave.

Honored many times for bravery and meritorious service, he was the owner of the Distinguished Flying Cross, the Air Medal and more than 10 Oak Leaf Clusters. When home on his overseas leave he was given 30 days and in commenting said, "I can see everyone I know in 10 days." He went back and they accepted him for duty. This is just one sample of his wonderful sense of humor. He looked on the bright side of everything.

He was popular and well liked wherever he went as he was straightforward. Known through his entertainment and activities with the disbanded Little Theatre group he will be remembered in

his action in "Petticoat Fever" and "Christmas Barricade." Quoting one of his favorite expressions "he was always on the beam" and his letters were just as humorous. He will live as a friend and patriotic son of St. Charles.

Trailer Exhibit —

(Continued from Page 1)
on the best methods of canning and preservation.

The exhibit includes something about each method commonly used. A drawing showing the construction of an outdoor storage pit where root vegetables and some fruits may be stored is on display as is also a small home-made dehydrator, for housewives interested in drying fruits and vegetables. Both glass jars and tin cans may be processed in the pressure cooker or the water bath cooker on display, and samples of each are shown. Included also is a home style freezer and storage unit with samples of correct wrappings and containers for frozen foods. Free booklets on proper canning and preservation methods will be distributed.

The trailer in which the exhibit is displayed has been set up as a model kitchen and should attract the attention of all women interested in modern kitchen equipment.

Conceived by Lester J. Norris, chairman of the Illinois Garden and Home Food Preservation committee, the exhibit has been touring the state since Aug. 6. This is the 27th stop on the tour which has included the Illinois State Fair at Springfield and several county fairs. There are still 19 more cities on the itinerary of the display including three fairs before the tour is ended on Sept. 20.

When the trailer was launched, Norris said, "It is more important than ever that we save all the food possible to help the nation meet its commitments in alleviating the world famine and to take as much of the burden as possible off the family food budget."

Pet Show —

(Continued from Page 1)
in the costume parade and judges were forced to make the first prize a tie because of the cleverness of the ideas. Donald McDonald of Bartlett was dressed as an Indian with copper colored paint, authentic Indian trappings on his pony which he rode bareback before the crowds. William "Wink" Bangs of Geneva was tied on the honors. His pony was converted into an elephant, with trunk, while the owner was dressed as an elephant boy leading the animal which had his pet dog on a box on top like a rajah.

Michael Orr, 4, took a prize as

a balloon dancer whose costume was scanty and whose "bubble" was a huge rubber ball. Louis Swift III of Wheaton, 10, was a prospector to the west with all his earthly belongings, including miner's tools, and mattress packed on his tiny Sicilian donkey.

Wendy and Cynthia Currier of Lake Forest entered their white shepherd dog which pulled a covered wagon with one of the girls as passenger. This took first prize in the pet dog class. "Cubby" a pet raccoon owned by Glen Ives of Wayne took first in the pets division; "Galloping Gus," a dookey owned by Louis Swift III of Wheaton took second; "Chippy," a squirrel owned by Shirley Cole of Chicago, was third, and fourth went to "Ferdinand," a calf owned by Barbara Mansfield of Bartlett.

In the dog division, first prize went to Joe Migely of Wayne for his pointer "Sam"; second to Cornelius Nelson of Elgin for his Chihuahua, and third to "Migs" a bulldog exhibited by Sherylo Reese of Elgin.

The greased pig was the cause of much amusement during the afternoon by all who attended. It was eventually caught by Charles

Clark of Wayne after 40 entries had tried in vain to catch this heavy amount of fresh pork. Mrs. John McQuigon of Leland and Mrs. Charles Coffin out-hopped 30 other couples in the three-legged race. Mr. and Mrs. Corwith Hamilton of Wayne placed second in this adult stunt.

Horsemanship entries were so large divisions were broken into two. In the 13 to 18 year old class Carol Phillips of Wayne on "Belle" won first place. Charles Denny of Lake Forest, riding "Bronnia," won second place. Arin Evans of Hinsdale on his horse "Tammerlaine" and Dorothy Lindsay of St. Charles atop "Sir Frederick" won third and fourth prizes.

Virginia Denny of Lake Forest on her horse "Rarity," won first place in the 9 to 12 year old horsemanship division. Gimie Seum of Wayne on "Dinah," Sammy Ulsaker riding "Mystery" and Car Weller of St. Charles on "Oak," won second, third and fourth.

In the eight years and under horsemanship division Susie Coffin and her horse "Wishful Thinking," took first place. Bonnie Orr of Wayne and her horse "Neenah" John Choosman of Geneva and

ST. CHARLES

INVITES YOU TO THE

FALL FESTIVAL

AUGUST 30-31 and SEPTEMBER 1

IN BEAUTIFUL

Pottawatomie

Auspices of American Legion
and St. Charles Chamber of Commerce

FRIDAY, AUGUST 30

6:00 P.M. Opening of St. Charles 1946
Fall Festival Entertainment on
the Midway7:00 P.M. Northern Illinois Softball Tour-
nament Games.

SUNDAY

6:00 P.M.

Take a Taxi Executive's word for it!

De Vack

Pin notes up
"Clay is available"

Threw a combat

Had no effect on him.

Made a kind landing, using Gee

Everyone liked him.

Personal grudge against Germans

From: Tom Watson <claeysearch@hotmail.com>
To: russell.a.strong306@worldnet.att.net <russell.a.strong306@worldnet.att.net>
Date: Wednesday, January 10, 2001 5:17 PM
Subject: Captain Richard Claeys

Dear Mr. Strong,

I ran across your website while doing research on my brother's namesake, Captain Richard Henry Claeys. Captain Claeys was one of my father's boyhood friends, and when my brother was born shortly after Captain Claeys' death after the war, he was named Richard Claeys Watson. I am trying to put together as much history as I can of Captain Claeys, to present to my brother as an honor for both of them.

I have tracked down that Captain Claeys reportedly joined the RCAF early in the war, probably flew fighters or reconnaissance until 1943, when he joined the USAAF. He flew transports for several years. By early 1945, he had transferred to the 368th squadron, 306th bomb group, where one source said he flew over 60 missions. After VE day, we know from correspondence that he had rotated back to the states to train on B-29's, but apparently was not shipped to the Pacific. He later returned to flying transports in Europe, where he was killed on August 19, 1946 when his plane "strayed" over Yugoslavia. I can send you copies of the sources of the above if you are interested.

If you have any specifics, or recollections of Captain Claeys, I would appreciate hearing from you. I would also like to get your advice on which of your publications I should start with. It looks like you have an incredible amount of information to review.

I thank you in advance for your time, and for the honor that you have maintained for people like Captain Claeys.

Respectfully yours,
Tom (not the golfer) Watson