



June and Wanda on the 7<sup>th</sup> of June. He added that he lost his first wife Jeanne after many years of happiness. A member clowning around interrupted our conversation.

After a few minutes, this distinguished pilot and engineer continued spelling out random highlights of his life during the rest of the luncheon. In a few days I called him and we agreed to have lunch at the Lamplighter on De Soto on the 20<sup>th</sup> of June.

We both arrived about a couple of minutes apart. We were seated and ordered similar light breakfasts. Elmo started listing all the planes in which he was trained. It included the PT 19, PT 13, twin engine trainers, the AT 17, the C78 and when he was in the service - the B 24. The B 24 training took place at Fort Worth, Texas. Civilian pilots conducted his initial flying experiences. Ironically, in 1941 and 42 when his parents moved to San Diego, Elmo became a toolmaker and worked on the wings of the B 24s. He was taught this trade by an expert German toolmaker.

His friend, Jeanne, was living in Kansas City, and busy with her life, yet this distinguished pilot continued to write to her and Dorsie. Dorsie became a lost cause because of her mother's opposition. While in the service, Elmo flew the B 32's that were phased out and replaced by the B 29's. He dated Jeanne. He took her to the opera on their first date. Near the end of the war he and Jeanne were married.

Elmo has had exciting work experiences. He worked for TRW in the field of micro miniaturization. At Hughes, he excelled in the semi conductor field and he has patents. His patent for micro diode semi conductors received the Arthur B. Little Award for excellence in the field. His work experiences were often related to advancing space activities.

His life long interest in sports as a player in high school and college glues him to the TV watching baseball, football, basketball, etc. If you should see him curled up reading a good book ... it probably is a book by his favorite writer Mark Twain.

While I was spreading more strawberry jam on my last piece of toast, he continued stating his activities with the 8th Air Force 2<sup>nd</sup> Division organization. He added that his Methodist Church on Roscoe had closed. I reminded him how wonderful the yearly Art Shows sponsored by the church were for artists. My sixth grade son displayed his work there.

"By the way, was a colonel who served in Iraq a parishioner there?' I asked. "Yes. Why did you ask?" replied Elmo.

" He spoke to us at a public meeting about what was happening in Iraq during those first few years. What I remember best was his observation that it is not about territory or oil, but a religious struggle between the Sunnis and the

Shiites. As a field officer he was very knowledgeable about all the self—interests in Iraq."

The waitress placed our bill on the table. Our chats were over. Elmo was planning to visit Dorsie and I had to go to Green Thumb. As we get up from the table, he reminded me that he would be 95 years old at the end of July.

I wished him a very "Happy Birthday".

Ed Moreno  
Reporter

**They never were turned back  
(Tradition of 8th and 15th AF)**

There have been some great traditions  
Through a thousand years of war  
That helps recall and honor  
The heroes gone before

There's the story of the Alamo  
**Of** courage unsurpassed  
Pickett's charge -- San Juan Hill  
Verdun's "They shall not pass"

That left with many regiments  
Traditions tried and true  
Honors aged and multiplied  
As they fought the centuries through

But the world and war are changing  
And today unlike the past  
A fledgling code without prelude  
Becomes tradition fast

It was born high in the heavens  
Amid the battles' din  
Over Schweinfurt and Regensburg  
Ploiesti and Berlin

It was writ by brave young airmen  
High above the tortured lands  
Who held the future of all mankind?  
In their young and sweaty hands

They faced the savage fighters  
They flew through raging flak  
To create a new tradition

--Jan G. Begg 2003

Submitted by  
Karen Vigtel

Happy Belated 94th Birthday Darrell Huston

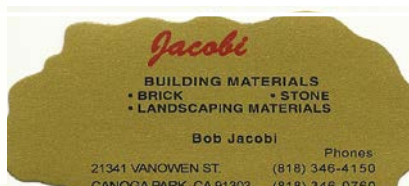
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