

THE 6TH DIMENSION

WILLING & ABLE

Hello 6th Mobers! Here's hoping that this May 2019 Newsletter finds you in good health and the weather in your area is providing you with a gradual and comfortable Springtime. I know some parts of our nation are under attack by Mother Nature with many extremes of weather phenomena, flooding, snow, rain and more rain, thunderstorms, hail and tornadoes. I thought we fixed all that in our glorious days in 6th Weather Mobile. Maybe we have to go back and make some fine adjustments.

In this issue I wrote about the beginning of 6th Weather Squadron (Mobile) and the transition time from 6th Weather Squadron (Regional) and the 2060th Mobile Weather Squadron already at Tinker, and the activities of that year in 1952. Some of you were probably there at the start of 6th Mobile.

On another note, this newsletter is e-mailed to everyone who has an e-mail account which helps us save the labor and cost of publishing and mailing a paper copy. So if you are receiving a paper copy and you have an e-mail address or no longer want to receive the newsletter, please notify us at: webmaster@6thweathermobile.org or write us at: 6WSAA c/o Buck Bucklin, 8 Sherwood Lane, East Hampton, NY 11937

Treasurer's Report from Buck Bucklin:

Total deposits for 2018: \$220.00
Total expenses for 2018: \$300.81
(Newsletters and website domain costs.)



As Of March 31, 2019:

Total deposits \$10.00.
Expenses \$151.19 Website (3 years); domain name cost/yr
Total Bank balance:\$2595.19 Less \$1000.00 J. Hartz grant
Total Operating balance for 6WSAA: **\$1595.19**

Were you a 302X0 Weather Equipment Technician?

And if you are on Facebook, you can join the group [302X0 Air Force Weather Equipment Maintenance](#) and if they still have some left, you could buy one for \$8.50 +shipping. Very nice coin that commemorates my AFSC and years in the AF. Some of you who were at a base weather station detachment might remember the wind equipment, weather radar, rotating beam ceilometer, transmissometer and techs will also remember the GE75 key and PSM-6 Multimeter.



Are your dues up to date? Renew your membership today. Just write a check payable to 6WSAA and send it in. to: 6WSAA c/o Buck Bucklin, 8 Sherwood Lane, East Hampton, NY 11937 \$10 dues per year to keep your association membership current. If you receive the newsletter in the mail, your current dues date DD is on the envelope after your name. If you receive it by e-mail, you can go to our website letstalk.6thweathermobile.org, enter the User ID and Password in the security window, click on Member List to get to the page, then click on **Member List** to view the list. You can also e-mail me at webmaster@6thweathermobile.org and ask for your dues date or for your User ID and Password to access the secure site. It will be e-mailed back to you.



Inside this issue:

Dues, Newsletter, Coin	1
6th WS History 1952	2, 3 4
Steve Gladish's Book	5
Final Launch	5, 6



6TH WEATHER SQUADRON
(MOBILE)
ALUMNI ASSOCIATION
WILLING & ABLE



6WSAA c/o BUCK BUCKLIN
8 SHERWOOD LANE
EAST HAMPTON, NY 11937
WWW.6THWEATHERMOBILE.ORG





THE 6TH DIMENSION

Page 2

This 6th Dimension Newsletter is published for the exclusive use of our 6WSAA members. Information is included as reported without vetting and is edited for space. If you discover an error or items that need a correction, please notify Gerry Guay Editor, Email: webmaster@6thweathermobile.org. Members are encouraged to submit articles, information or stories that would be of interest to the general membership.

My Notes from 6th Weather Squadron - Origins of 6th WS (Mobile) - 1952

1952 and Origins of the 6th Weather Squadron (Mobile) as best as I can explain it from back in 1952 which was before I was even in high school, and from the records of our 6th Weather history is best explained here. What makes this more complicated is the deactivation/activation of three units, 6th Weather Squadron (Regional) with many detachments, 2060th Mobile Weather Squadron and 6th Weather Squadron and then Mobile. All this was part of a “service-wide reorganization of Air Weather Service”. So on 20 May 1952, 6th Weather Squadron (Regional) was simultaneously in-activated at Patrick AFB, Florida and 6th Weather Squadron was activated at Tinker AFB, Oklahoma but was a completely different organization than the previous one. The new 6th Weather Squadron at Tinker was assigned to the 6th Weather Group, and took on the mission, responsibilities, personnel and equipment of the 2060th Mobile Weather Squadron already at Tinker which at the same time was discontinued. The mission remained unchanged from the 2060th MWS which was to organize, supervise and direct mobile weather operations. The reorganization included 10 weather detachments and 250 personnel. The planning document described all the individual organization units as cells and included the Squadron headquarters, Auto Maintenance, 2 Tactical/Tac (aka Mobile) forecast stations, 2 Tac Observation stations, 2 Tac Obs teams, 4 Tac For & Obs stations, 12 Tac Rawinsonde stations which resulted in 20 officers, 3 warrant officers and 249 airmen authorized. Added to this list as suggested by those in charge were an Admin section and Materiel augmentation section. In another suggested addition, and these were allowable but not authorized, were 3 Upper air checking cells for verification purposes, a Supply section and a Field Maintenance Shop. Lt. Col Barney was the Commanding Officer. A request for (Mobile) designation was approved on 3 July 1952, so then began the 6th Weather Squadron (Mobile). The training program for personnel awaiting project assignments continued at the training site with classroom lectures and hands on setup and operation as a detachment to insure the complete orientation and operation of a mobile weather detachment before their departure. The Severe Weather Warning Center (SWWC) continued operations at Tinker to issue tornado and other severe weather warnings to all ZI military installations, and Operation Tornado Alley continued in support of SWWC. In other operations, support continued for **Project B-20**, a classified foreign project with Detachments 9, 10 and 11 participating. Upper air observations continued with seven detachments in support of **Operation Tornado Alley** to provide additional upper air data for refinement of severe weather forecasting techniques. Phase I provided coverage for maximum thunderstorm activity in Texas, Oklahoma and Kansas. Because of costs, the Phase II “R” section at Gage, OK, which was to run for all 3 phases was eliminated from Phase I but incorporated into Phase III. Phase I rawinsonde sites were all at military installations: Vance, and Ft Sill in Oklahoma; Connelly, Reese, Amarillo and Perria AF bases in Texas and Wichita AFB in Kansas. In addition to Wichita AFB, the Phase III sites were all at local airports in Russell and Goodland, Kansas, (Continued on Page 3)



Operation Tornado Alley - Wichita Kansas

the Phase III sites were all at local airports in Russell and Goodland, Kansas, (Continued on Page 3)

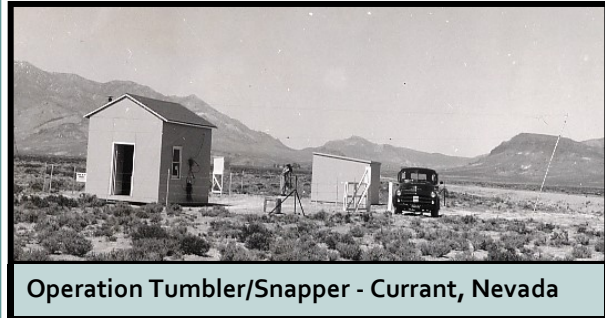


Operation Ivy - Detonation Mike



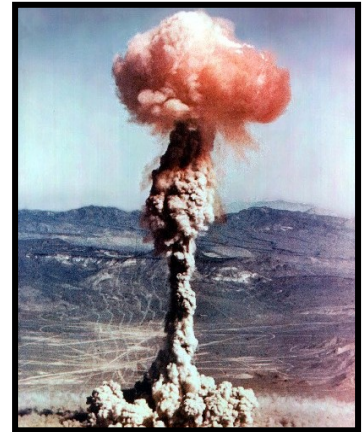
My Notes from 6th Weather Squadron - Origins of 6th WS (Mobile) - 1952 (Continued from Page 2)

Gage, Oklahoma and at Akron and La Junta in Colorado. The Tinker AFB site operated through all three phases. **Weather Reporting Element Provisional 132.4.3.2** participated in a classified project from 18 October to 10 December and no other information is available in the historical report.



Operation Tumbler/Snapper - Currant, Nevada

On the internet I found that 2 nuclear tests took place at Eniwetok Island on 31 October and 15 November as part of Operation Ivy and I presume our unit was there to provide weather support. Eight detachments provided weather support for **Operation Tumbler/Snapper** at the



Operation Tumbler/Snapper

Nevada Atomic Energy Commission Test Site. The Nevada weather sites were located in Tonopah, Warm Springs, Currant, Caliente, Crystal Springs and Beatty with one in St. George, Utah. All sites were operational by 23 March. At least 4 observations were required of all rawinsonde and pibal stations and on days of nuclear tests, pibals were increased to two or three per hour as well as visual weather observations. Special instrumentation was made for winds, humidity and temperature for the Tumbler Operation, and humidity and temp for the Snapper operation at specified distances from ground zero. Outlying detachments also made radiation measurements at their stations on test day with equipment installed by the Radiological Section and eliminated the need for additional personnel. **At Edwards AFB, CA** there was a 30 day rawinsonde comparison project where Det. 37 provided an "R" section equipped with a Rawin Set GMD-1 to determine the



Edwards AFB CA - FMQ-1 in K-53 Mobile Van

relative accuracy of wind and pressure -height-density data from double GMD -1 rawin sets tracking a single flight instrument. The second GMD was 27,000 feet distance at Aberdeen Bombing Mission. Each flight was also tracked by three Theodolites and three Phototheodolites. This could determine if satisfactory upper air data could be used to eliminate the use of



Edwards AFB CA - GMD-1 & K-53 Van

Askania cinetheodolites, a photographic instrument for collection of trajectory data which could only be used under ideal conditions. It was used to acquire data in the testing of missiles, rockets, projectiles and the like. **Castle AFB, CA** was the site of upper air soundings to aid in the forecasting for fog and stratus in the San Joaquin Valley and without support forecasting becomes impossible. In October, Det 1 travelled to **Hill AFB, UT** in support of 4925th Atomic Test Group and provided winds aloft from surface to

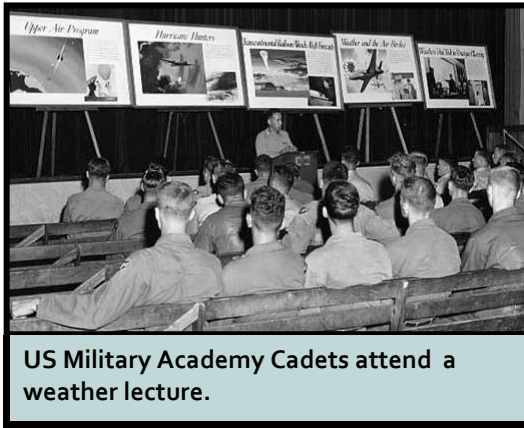
30,000 feet using the double theodolite method. A presentation and demonstration to the **US Military Academy** at Maxwell AFB, AL of the AWS mission and capabilities as part of a bigger program encompassing all of Military Air Transport Service (MATS) *(Continued on Page 3)*

Changes: To keep our costs low: Please keep us informed of any e-mail or address changes by e-mailing us at webmaster@6thweathermobile.org or USPS mail us 6WSAA c/o Buck Bucklin, 8 Sherwood Lane, East Hampton, NY 11937





My Notes from 6th Weather Squadron - Origins of 6th WS (Mobile) - 1952 (Continued from Page 3)



US Military Academy Cadets attend a weather lecture.

services was carried out by Det 7 in July and August. It included a large display of three K-53 vans, one Package Weather Station, and all its associated equipment. 6th WS received much publicity when it conducted demonstrations to the public of a tactical weather station at Lindsey, OK in August for their 50th Golden Jubilee and Harvest Celebration Then at the Oklahoma State Fair in September with much coverage in the local newspapers, 6th WS displayed 3 K-53 vans, an observing, forecasting and rawinsonde van and associated equipment with

rawinsonde balloon releases every afternoon. This setup was also used at the Shawnee, OK Airshow in June and proved to be a popular display. The Severe Weather Warning Center issued 602 severe weather forecasts that year. They conducted a tour for American Airlines



US Military Academy -Maxwell AFB

officials from Houston, published reports on tornadic activity, delivered a speech to the Meteorological Society in D.C., a dissertation on "Forecasting Destructive Thunderstorms" to the Air University Quarterly and provided an instructor for the Weather Bureau Severe Storms Course in D.C. Supply was reorganized and re-warehousing was accomplished. They also delivered helium to operational sites totaling 20 trips and implemented a locator card system for all supply items. The Maintenance Shop performed rehab on 6 AN/GMD-1As, 6 SCR-658s and all allied equipment and completely rewired 2 Receivers BC-



Setting up anemometer at Shawnee Air Show

264. 230 thermometers underwent ice-baths and only 6 failed. Also completed were complete renovation of three K-53 vans with repositioning of working equipment to allow more working room. Motor Pool strength decreased from 27 to 18 and were able to perform 345 inspections on power units, 271 on motor vehicles, 23 major assembly installations, 27 vans, trucks and trailers painted, conducted driver's school and tested for drivers licenses and issued 101 licenses. Vehicles accumulated 137, 960 miles on the road. That pretty much sums up 1952, a busy year for 6th Weather Squadron and its first year as 6th Weather Squadron (Mobile).

TORNADO ALLEY

ALL INDIAN VARIETY SHOW
NATIVE DANCES • PAGEANTRY
COLORFUL COSTUMES
ONE NITE ONLY SATURDAY SEPT. 20

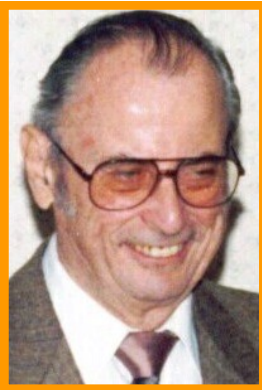
HORSE RACES
SEPTEMBER
Wed. Thur. Fri. Sat.
24 25 26 27
FIVE BIG RACES EACH DAY
OKLA. CITY SHOW DAY
SAT., SEPT. 27

OKLAHOMA STATE FAIR
1952
OKLAHOMA CITY
SEPT. 20 thru 27

The 6th Weather Squadron, headquartered at Tinker AFB, will set up a complete mobile weather station in the heart of the fair-ground and maintain actual field operations during the fair. Twenty-five Weathermen ground and communications personnel will be on hand to operate the exhibit and to assist visitors. The exhibit will be open from 9 a. m. to 10 p.m.



Final Launch



Thomas C Renner 1929 – 1990 Thomas C. Renner, a newspaper reporter for 36 years and the author of several books about organized crime, died of heart disease on Friday, January 19, 1990 at the New York Hospital-Cornell Medical Center in Manhattan. He was 61 years old and lived in Smithtown, L.I. Mr. Renner was an investigative reporter for Newsday. He served in the Air Force 6th Weather Squadron from 1950 to 53. Over the years he wrote several books about organized-crime figures including "Mafia Princess," a best seller on which he collaborated with Antoinette Giancana (William Morrow, 1984), and "My Life in the Mafia," a collaboration with Vince Teresa, (Doubleday & Company, 1973). He is survived by his wife, the former Nancy Lo Duca; four daughters, Jacqueline Murray, Dawn Pellechi, Sandra Renner and Elaine Renner, all of Long Island, and two grandchildren.



Justin "Bud" Lyman Cobb, III 1927 - 2019 Justin "Bud" Lyman Cobb, III, 92 of Amherst, MA died peacefully at his home on April 21, A native of Mansfield, MA, he was the son of the late Justin L. Cobb, Jr., and Emily (Roberts) Cobb. He was educated at local schools in Mansfield and was a graduate of the Wayside Inn Boys School in Sudbury. During the Second World War, he served in the Army Air Corps with the 6th Weather Squadron at Albrook AFS in the Panama Canal Zone. He was awarded an Army Commendation Ribbon for meritorious service during an attempted rescue of the survivors of a crashed military transport on Taboga Island. Justin was a committed athlete and educator. After his discharge from the Air Corps, he enrolled at Springfield College, where he graduated with his BA in 1950, followed by a master's degree in Physical Education at Pennsylvania State College.

He relocated to Amherst and joined the faculty of the University of Massachusetts in the Department of Physical Education, retiring in 1987 as Associate Vice Chancellor for Administration. Upon his retirement, he formed his own small business, Captain's Quarters Antiques, which specialized in maritime art and folk art, a venture that combined his love of the sea with his fascination with history. He was married for 61 years to Patricia (Belcher) Cobb, who predeceased him and with him raised his family of six children in Amherst. He was active in local youth athletics and was a former vice chairman of the Great Trails Council of the Boy Scouts of America. He is also predeceased by his sister Justine Oyster of Tiburon, CA and survived by his six children (Christine, Justin, Paula, Christopher, Jeffrey, and Paul) and their spouses and partners, 9 grandchildren, 9 great grandchildren, 4 great-great grandchildren and cousins here and in Michigan.



Steve Gladish at his Book Signing Tucson Festival of Books on the University of Arizona Campus - *Tracking the Skies for Lacy*

Tracking the Skies for Lacy is a Sixth Weather Squadron military adventure romance novel with inspirational themes of love and loss, danger and perseverance. Luke LaCrosse joins the Air Force's Sixth Weather Squadron (Mob), tracks weather balloons twenty miles up to provide information to USAF weather forecasters, supports upper-atmosphere thermonuclear missile tests around Samoa, chases tornadoes with classic motorcycles and Sixth Weather sidekicks in Oklahoma, and flies rescue helicopters in Vietnam, always yearning to reconnect with Lacy DeLuca who has held his heart since early high school. The novel is dedicated to all members of Sixth Weather Squadron, whose camaraderie, self-reliance, and adventures around the world were handed down and around from one reunion to the next. Without the reunions this novel would never have been written. Steve says, "The dedication doesn't mean a thing unless you read the book! Money back guarantee."

In "Tracking the Skies for Lacy," Lacy's own adventures start when she wins independence from her wealthy family's expectations, gets out on her own, and discovers what real life is like. She is years ahead of the women in the 'Sixties' who accepted more conventional roles as their lot. After years of loneliness and heartbreaks afflicted on each other, Lacy and Luke meet at a Sixth Weather Reunion, which leads to a fateful river trip.

Tracking the Skies for Lacy is an affirmation of the power, independence, and faith of love. *Steve Gladish*

Changes: Please keep us informed of any e-mail or address changes by e-mailing us at:

 webmaster@6thweathermobile.org or
USPS mail us 6WSAA c/o Buck Bucklin, 8 Sherwood Lane, East Hampton, NY 11937

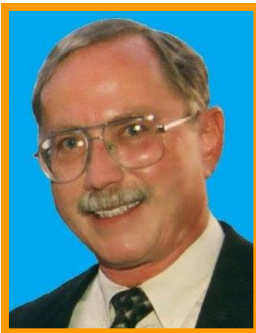


Final Launch



John F. Schumacher December 22, 1922 - December 21, 2018 John "Schu" Schumacher 95, of La Crosse, WI passed away on Friday, Dec 21, 2018, at the Bethany-St. Joseph Care Center. He was born December 22, 1922, in Coon Valley, WI to Joseph and Mary (Kaiser) Schumacher. On his 19th birthday, December 22, 1941, 15 days after the attack on Pearl Harbor, John, a farm boy from St. Joseph's Ridge, enlisted in the United States Air Force, receiving his commission as a flight officer in February 1943. His first assignment as a pilot was transporting anti-aircraft guns to the Aleutians. Then transporting military supplies and weapons between Canada and England. In June 1943, he completed 17 trips back and forth, often involving German Messerschmitt

air to air attacking aircraft. John's most significant contribution to the war effort was piloting a WACO CG-4A Transport Glider transporting troops, and jeeps, landing in the cover of darkness behind enemy lines. John piloted the WACO CG-4A Glider in 5 European invasions: Normandy, Belgium, Battle of the Bulge, Southern France, and Berlin. During the invasion of Belgium, anti-aircraft guns split the tow rope attached to the C-47 towing John's glider. He safely landed 15 miles behind enemy lines and eventually made it back to Allied territory. John often said the successful completion of those 5 missions were his greatest accomplishments in WWII. He was truly a member of the "Greatest Generation." John was discharged from the U.S. Air Force in September 1946, re-enlisted in April 1947. He then completed his 25-year career with the rank of Chief Master Sergeant in January 1968. John served in 6th Weather Squadron (Mobile) from 1960 to 1968 and was NCOIC of the Weather Equipment Maintenance Section at Tinker AFB, OK. During the nuclear tests at Christmas and Johnston Islands in the Pacific named Operation Dominic in 1962, John was at Headquarters Weather Reporting Element, Task Group 8.4 at Hickam AFB directing and insuring his weather maintenance troops had the support required to complete their tasks in providing the weather support for the tests. John was also a member of 6WS Alumni Association. On September 4, 1947, John married Bernadette Frederick in Emmett, Kansas. For many years they lived in Dallas, TX, and John was active as a volunteer at the Silent Wings Museum in Lubbock, TX. They returned to La Crosse in 2000. In addition to his wife Bernadette, John is survived by a sister, Alice Beach of Ft. Atkinson, WI, and many nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents; two brothers, Alois (Irene) and Bud (Edna) Schumacher; two sisters, Marie (Howard) Wettstein and Betty (Charles) Hottinger, Sr., along with three brothers-in-law: Joe (Marie), Everett (Rosemary), and Roy (Marie) Frederick. He was my NCOIC.



Douglas D, Wilson M.D. Doug Wilson of Springboro OH, passed away at age 76 on September 23, 2018. He was preceded in death by his parents, Versie and Edwin Wilson. He is survived by his children, Sherri (Tyler) Alexander and Michelle Hardyman; his brothers Steve Wilson and Phil Wilson; sister Donna Wilcox; grandchildren Reagan Hardyman, Addison Hardyman, Kayden Alexander, and Avery Alexander; and nephews Justin and Aaron Wilson. Douglas was a family physician for over 35 years in Salem, OH, Springboro, OH, and at Wright Patterson Air Force Base. He was a proud member of the United States Air Force. Douglas also loved photography, boating, and the Ohio State Buckeyes. He served in 6th Weather Squadron (Mobile) in the 60s at Tinker AFB, OK. We also served together in Wewak, New Guinea, 1963.



Roland L. Grenon, Jr. Roland Grenon 82, of Westport MA, husband of Cynthia C. (Pires) Grenon, passed away Saturday, November 25, 2017. A graduate of New Bedford High School, he was employed as a carpenter. He was an Air Force veteran of the Korean War. He served in 6th Weather Squadron (Mobile) from 1955 to 1957 at Tinker AFB, OK and was a member of 6WSAA. Besides his wife of 38 years, he leaves a daughter, Kim Nolette of Virginia, two sisters, Emily LeBlanc and Jeanne Pina, both of New Bedford and two grandchildren, Rusty and Haylee Painter; nieces and nephews. He was the son of the late Roland L. and Gertrude (Methe) Grenon.

