## A HISTORY OF THE 306th BOMBARDMENT GROUP - EIGHTH AIR FORCE Russell A. Strong, 4900 Appleridge Ct., Dayton, Ohio 45424

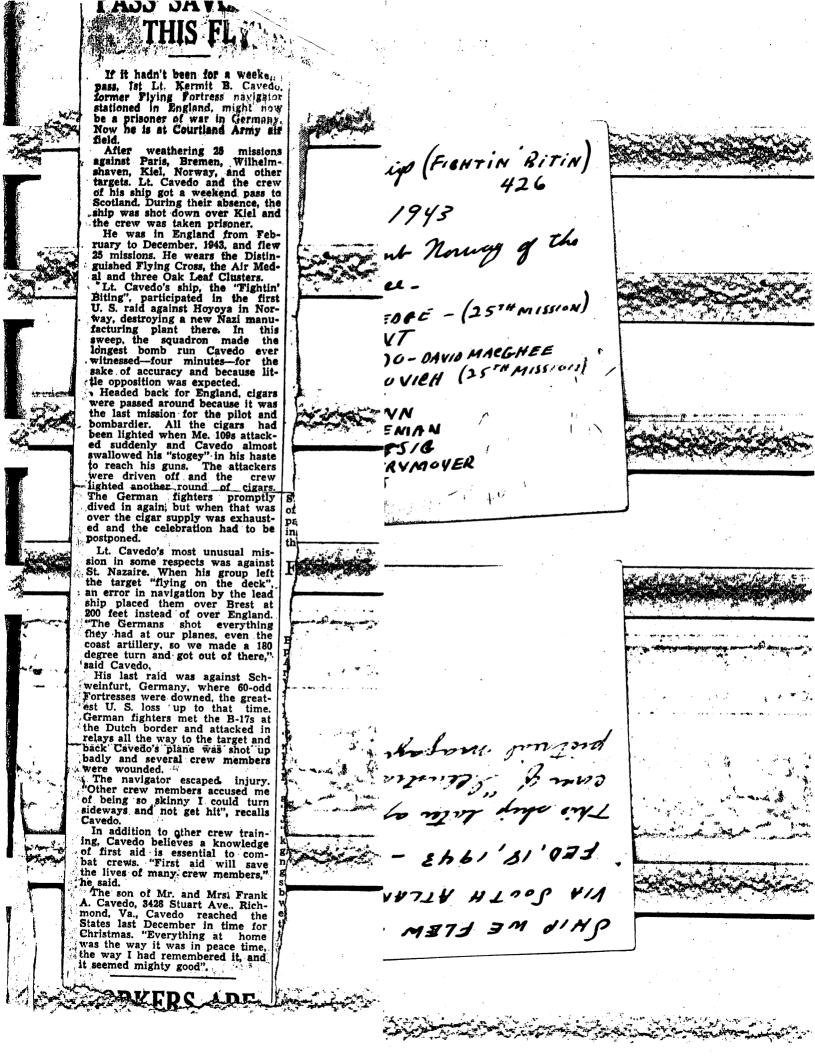
I am endeavoring to put together a good history of the 306th Bombardment group, an idea which has been in my mind for some years. I am working diligently on the matter, collecting all kinds of data and working through the official history and records of the group. I served as a navigator with the 367th squadron from June through November, 1944,

I am interested in any special materials which you may have, such as good photographs of personnel, battle damage, plane insignia, etc. I am also interested in commendations (other than the usual Air Medal and DFC) you may have received, special stories which you may have in your possession, letters that are highly descriptive of combat action, or any other documents. I would appreciate receiving xeroxed copies. But, if you do not have such facilities readily available, I would appreciate the loan of materials which I might copy and return to you immediately. I am also interested in manuscripts of memoirs which you may have prepared, particularly if they were done within a couple of years of the events. Again, I would appreciate copies or the opportunity to copy them.

Name KERMIT B, (JERRY) CAVEDO
Address 12 CLIFFSIDE DRIVE LURAY, VIRGINIA 22835
Telephone 203-243-6622 Date FEB. 21, 1977
Occupation DIR. PR&ADV. Employer LURAY CAVERNS
Address BOX 748 Telephone 703-743-655/
Service Record:
Before joining the 306th: Receinsmangalin wings Hondo/Tex. Sept. 1942 Arrivel Thurlingh war. 1, 1943
After leaving the 306th: Recured pilot wings Feb. 1,1941 moody Freis Sa. Statuted Sur marcos, Text, Sperated July 1941
306th Record:
Arrival Date Mar. 1 (943 Squadron or other unit 36974
MOS NAVIGATOR Combat Status
Missions Completed 2
Promotions 70 1575 27. Aug. 1943
Decorations/AM3olcs/DFC_olcs_SS_DSM_DSC_MH_SM
PHBattle Starsother

Other personal data: Designed "Fightin Bitin Joning of 1943 often losing ones ship "meat tound" ( he flew this ship to England his southern would) #254 Flew most of our missions in Fightin Bitin "Squadron adopted name shortly after our insignia was painted on our ship one listed on escription of Air Missions:

(What were the highlights of your combat career? What was your (What were the highlights of your combat career? What was your role? What heroics did you witness? What events were there of which you have special knowledge?) 1 - Snuffy Smith Trips in to Brest I low level 2 - Trentz-Fift-missin-Schnein fut 17 Bug. 43 3 - First ship ser target - Geroga-July 24, 1943 Fightin-Beter " second of 41 missions ended July 29, 1943 - 2 ships down-Conley o hinters here I.T. KLETTE out a pilot from states to England probably flew wore B-17 missions than any other assumisated officer is the 8th. not sure of court and have lost tack of him-(note the yank trypes account evalued)



24 June 1977

Mr. Kermit Cavedo Luray Caverns Corp. Luray, Virginia

Dear Kermit:

I received the attached information this week from Manny Klette, and I thought you might find it of considerable interest.

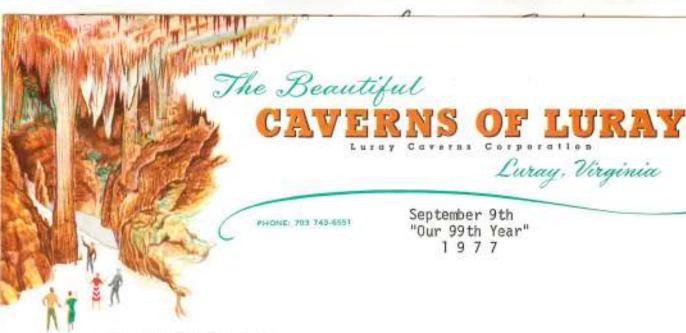
Then, I got to thinking that on the basis of this information, the Yank article, and some of your recollections, if I could get you to do a piece for a forthcoming 306th Echoes on Manny?

I would think something in the neighborhood of a thousand words or so.

Let me know what you think.

Sincerely yours.

Russell A. Strong



Mr. Russell A. Strong 306 Bombardment Group Association Route 1 Scotch Meadows Drive Laurinburg, N. C. 28352

Dear Russ:

Thanks so much for the information on Manny Klette. I lost track of him in 1945 and have had no contact since that time. The information regarding him filled the gap.

I think the idea of an article for "306 Echoes" is a fine one but I am not the person to write it. In the first place, I am not a writer and in the second place my association with Klette was in the early days when his Eighth Air Force career was the usual one. It was not until after my last mission that Klette started his unusual mission accomplishments. I would think it would take someone who knew him well in the 91st bomb group. I, of course, could perhaps fill in from the time our crew was formed at Geiger Field in Spokane, Washington, through phase training and our trip to England and assignment with the 369th Squadron of the 306 Bomb Group. At that point, Klette was assigned as co-pilot with an experienced crew. Our crew joined Roy Vinnedge of the 369th.

Here's another thought that may make an interesting article for the "306 Echoes." It is a story titled, "Mystery of the Luftwaffe," but may possibly be too long for your publication. It will run about 6,000 words. It was written in 1944 or 45 and was destined to be used by the Reader's Digest. However, a similar article beat the authors of this one to publication. If you have any interest at all in this, I am sure I can secure permission from the authors, John Goodwin and Carlton Brechler.

An interesting note regarding John Goodwin. John was one of two men from Eighth Air Force Public Information office that discovered the Nazis made lampshades from human skin in one of the concentration camps. I am sure you will remember this story broke when our people first arrived at the concentration camps after the war.

no P. Follo 10.1



September 9, 1977

-2- R. A. Strong, Laurinburg, N. C.

If you have any interest at all in this please let me know. I promise to do better regarding my correspondence with you. Thanks again for your thoughtfulness in forwarding the Klette material to me.

Sincerely yours,

KBC:b1

Kermit B. Cavedo

P. S. I think most of the 306 veterans would be interested in reading about Klette and if you can't do any better perhaps a reprint of that "Yank" article would be in order.



Mr. Russell A. Strong Route 1, Turnpike Rd. Laurenburg, N. C. 28352

Dear Russ:

I hope you and June had a very pleasant Christmas and wish for both of you a happy 1979:

My copy of 306 Echoes arrived today and I was most pleased to see your use of John Goodwin's article. The inserts in bold type were particularly interesting to me. I recognize Schoolfield's name and flew a couple of missions with him; and, of course, Rip Reardon was CO of our squadron part of the time I was in England.

I note that some addresses have changed and I have the correct current address for Roger S. Lindsay. This should be Roger S. Lindsay, Sr., 113 Goldenrod Lane, Noblesville, Indiana 46060.

Look forward to seeing you again soon and hope that you will contact me if you have occasion to be anywhere near Luray Caverns.

Sincerely yours,

Kermit B. Cavedo

KBC:b1

8926 THRASHER AVENUE LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90069 October 24, 197 00 Veterans Day MML MLB NLW im glad you found me. There is a local radio newscaster named John Goodwin, so L hear your name almost daily, and each time I do I've wondered "what ever became of Hohn M.?" Except for a stint of four years with a public relation's agency immediately upon my return from the war; I ve spent my entire career with General Motors in Dayton, Ohio; Detroit; and for the past six years in Los Angeles. A All in public relations. We love it here in Southern California. climate, the scene, the job. There is such a fan-tastic automobile market here and we cause just enough smog to make the PR job interesting. region is Southern California, Arizona, Utah and part of Nevada, which includes such nice places as Las Vegas, Palm Springs, Phoenix, Santa Barbara, and San Diego. My office is in Los Angeles. I turned 60 last month and am seriously considering retirement in a year -- not to a rocking chair -- but to coin a phrase: "something less renetical recommendation of the residence of the residenc I don't recall which article you are referreing to but you certainly have my permission to give it to the 306th I'd like to see it. My bomb group was the 91st, which also has an active alumni association and a good publication. We veterans have to hang together. Most of my business travels are within my region plus occasional traps to Detroit, so I may never get to beautiful Virginia. Why don't you come out here? We have a house in the Virgin Islands, so all of our vacations are spent down there. Cordially yours,

cVINM SUTHER ASID crector
AEDE MOORG
party Director

DIVISIONS
FEIRY
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## COMMONVEALTHOUVIRGINIA

#### DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

VIRGINIA STATE TRAVEL SERVICE

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October 28, 1977

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Mr. Kermit Cavedo
Director of Public Relations
and Advertising
Luray Caverns Corporation
Luray, VA 22835

Dear Jerry:

I have located Carlton Brechler and have his permission for the 306th ECHO to use our story gratis.

They may want this background:

Brech came to the ETO with the 91st Bomb Group as PRO, and served there for some time before joining me in 8th AF PRO at "Pinetree" (High Wycombe, Bucks.).

Our 8th AF story, written before VE Day, was brought back to the States by Allan Michie, field editor in Europe for the Readers Digest, who was confident his magazine would use it. Upon reaching the Digest offices in Pleasantville, N.Y., he learned they had already accepted and scheduled a similar story by an RAF Air Vice Marshall attached to the British Embassy or U.S. War Department in Washington.

We made no further effort to place it, and the story has not been published.

Brech entered service from Madison, Wisconsin, where he had been an Associated Press reporter, and I from Atlanta, Ga., where I was associate editor of business magazines.

Since WW II, Brechler has followed a career in public relations with General Motors, in Detroit, Dayton, and now Los Angeles. I have been in the advertising agency business

8th AF HQ ("Pinetree," High Wycombe, Bucks.) DURING WWII. Left to right: Lt. Tom Brown, Maj. John M. Goodwin, Lt. Arthur Shay, and War Correspondent Ernest Hemingway.

Hemingway, the famous novelist, was representing Colliers magazine at the time. He was looking for a ride back to the States, having just returned to England from Kurapax the Continent. Shay, standing, was a very young navigator from Chicago. He had just finished a know combat tour with an 8th AF group when he joined 8th AF PRO instead of returning to the States. Since WW II Artie has been a successful writer and photographer, having publicated and authored a number of children's books, and served as a contributing photograper to national magazines, especially Sports Illustrated. Goodwin, a co-author of attached article, was Press Chief in the PRO Section. Doolittle was CGx at this time.

Mr. Kermit Cavedo Page 2 October 28, 1977

in Richmond -- until 1969 when I sold my interest and joined the State Travel Service.

Sincerely,

John M. Goodwin
Director of Advertising

JMG/eeh

# In 1776, Luray Caverns were already 200 million years old!

February 22, 1977

Mr. Russell A. Strong Route 1 Scotch Meadows Drive Laurinburg, N. C. 28352

Dear Russell:

I apologize for the long delay in replying to your original letter. Much of this material was buried back in the attic. I hope some of it will prove of interest. Please return it when it has served your purpose.

Listed below are several members of our crew that I have kept in touch with over the years. I believe the addresses are current with the possible exception of Roger Lindsay's.

Billy Brown 20937 Saticoy St. Canoga Park, Calif. 91304

Russell, Billy Brown was our radio operator and was featured on Page 62 of the book "First of the Many."

Harry Hoser - Tail-gunner 914 Hartel St. Philadelphia, Penna. 19111

Roger S. Lindsay - Bombardier 860 Westbourne Lane Wheeling, Ill. 60090

If you have any specific questions I will be glad to try to answer them. Good luck on your project!

Sincerely yours,

Kermit B. Cavedo

anil

KBC:b1 ENCS



Luray Coverns Corporation Post Office Box 748 Luray, Virginia 22835 Telephone (703) 743-6554



Mr. Kermit B. Cavedo Luray Caverns Corporation P. D. Box 748 Luray, VA 22835

Dear Kermit:

Many thanks for the loan of materials. They arrived at just the right time for me to quickly copy them and get them on their way back to you.

I had all the pictures you enclosed, so that speeded things up. But the orders were all new to me and I got them copied last night and began working through them. I've already found half a dozen or more names that were not in my file.

Thanks for the information on Fightin' Bitin", You understand that I never liked them, having been a Clap Pigeon myself!

Thanks also for the additional addresses. We are now approaching 650 in names and addresses on file, and I estimate that there were about 8,000 men in the 306th.

Do you know anything about the other sugardron insignia? Were they around when you were there? Have not picked up any clues yet as to where any came from, except for the 369th.

I was able to pick up a mint copy of "First of the Many" last summer at the publication price, which I considered a real bargain. I was pleased to get the Time piece on Bob Williams and his mission. I have seen Bob a couple of times recently and have the Saturday Evening Post article on the same mission, and also see Clayawithia Wilson who was article on the same mission and was shot down about the time you a waist gunner on this mission and was shot down about the time you joined the 306th, and evaded capture. He lives about 50 miles from here and we get together now and then.

So, I guess that's where I am at the moment. Thanks again for your help, and the next time I am up that way I'll stop to see you.

Sincerely yours,

Mr. Kermit B. Cavido Director, Public Relations Luray Caverns, Corp. Luray, VA 22835

Dear Kermit:

As the accompanying information will tell you, I am researching a history of the 306th Bomb Group, and thus am looking for people and for information. And the groupswill have its second annual reunion Oct. 15-17 in Dayton.

Last Saturday night I was in Chicago and attended a small gathering of 206th people there, including Bob Williams of the 423rd and Ed Hennessy of the 369th.

I have talked and had correspondence with both, and this week Ed tropped me some information, including your address and the fact that you created the 369th insignia. I would like to hear from you how you did, when, etc. Also, do you know how the other squadron insignia came about?

Also in my work, I have learned that the Air Force did not begin saving Group Special Orders until December of 1943. I have them on the microfilm and in princuts from that time on, but I am looking for copies of orders from the beginning through November 1943. Would you go through your 201 file and send me copies of any orders which you have? This is one way I am trying to build a roster of 306th members.

I am sending your address along to Bill Collins of Poland, D., who is heading up thebgroup search effort, so you will begin to get mail about what is going on. Do you have any addresses of former members, or do you know hometowns or colleges of onetime associates? Any leads will be helpful.

Sincerely yours,

Russell A. Strong

4900 Appleridge Ct. Dayton, Ohio 45424

513/233\_873E



August 31, 1982

Mr. Russell A. Strong 2041 Hillsdale Kalamazoo, Michigan 49007

Dear Russ:

Thanks so much for the clipping. I am so sorry that I was unable to spend more time with you and June but pleased that you enjoyed your short visit here.

I hope you both will have the opportunity to come back again soon, and that we will have a longer visit.

Sincerely yours,

Kermit B./Cavedo

Director - Public Relations/Advertising

KBC:bl



Luray Caverns Corporation, Post Office Box 748, Luray, Virginia 22835, (703) 743-6551

May 20, 1982

Mr. Russell A. Strong 2041 Hillsdale Kalamazoo, Mich. 49007

Dear Russ:

Thanks for your letter. My check must have passed in the mail so you should have it in a day or so. I, too, enjoyed our conversation and look forward to your visit here later in the summer. If you have occasion to drive Interstate 81 through the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia we are only 14 miles east of New Market, Virginia, at Interstate 81, Exit 67.

I still get a great kick out of telling friends of our lunch at Norma's Restaurant in Laurinburg. I am certainly sorry to hear she is not in business any more.

If you turn up anything on Billy Brown I would like to receive the information which I will pass on to Frank Roper in Rockville, Maryland. Frank is also looking for Billy.

Sincerely yours,

Kermit B. Cavedo

Terry.

Director - Public Relations/Advertising

KBC:b1

P. S - Other material well be /
mailed & you soon.

Nature's

Amazement Park

Luray Caverns

### 18 May 1982

Dear Kermit:

In answer to your phone call today, we did have Billy Brown on our mailing list at one time as from Canoga Park. But he is not now, and we must have lost him in a move. I'll try to do a bit of tracking at the office in our LA area phone book coll ection.

Roger Freeman's address is: May's Barn
Deadham,
Colchester,
Essex CO7 6EW
England.

I saw Roger when I was in England at the end of January. That was the first time I had ever met him. He is a walking encyclopedia of 8th AF data. He has been working on it since the end of the war and has an excellent memory.

Dave MacGhee's address: 7303 Gordons Road Falls Church, VA 22043

I'll send two books along in a couple of days for you. I'll be mailing again Wednesday. Of course, I do want to get paid!

Enjoyed our conversation. When my travel slows down a bit I hope we can get down that way. We are planning to go to North Carolina in early August because of an impending grandchild, and perhaps we can wander off that way for a day. I'll give you a call if we can make it.

Norma's restaurant in Laurinburg finally closed because a bank bought the property for a new building.

My best to you all,



August 15, 1984

Mr. Russell A. Strong 2041 Hillsvale Kalamazoo, MI 49007

Dear Russ:

It was certainly thoughtful of you to mail the clipping from your local paper. Sometimes we get lucky on a release of this nature, and I am pleased to have this for our scrapbook.

I envy you your trip to Germany and hope that it is a most pleasant one. At this time I do not plan to attend the meeting in Fort Worth but perhaps in '85.

Best regards,

KBC:b1

Kermit B. Cavedo



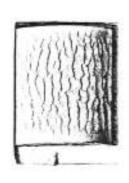
KERHIT B. CAVEDO LURAY CAVERAS BOX 248 LURAY, VIRGINIA





Mr. Russell Strong 2041 Hillsdale Kalamazoo, Mich. 49007





STEVE HOLLEMAN (WG)

FIRST ROW L to R HARRY HOSER - CARL FRYMOYER BILLY BROWN PAUL LOUBET

SECOND ROW LTOR ROGER LINDSAY BYRON C. BRYANT (CP)

ROY VINNEDGE WILEY W. GLASS (INTELLIGENCE ) I think his only mission was made

with our crew.

KERMIT B. CAVEDO

Luss good to hear from you - Hope the into here will outfice -I will retire the end of 85 and will remain in Luray - Jin me a buzz when you're near.

BILL Please change your address
records as per below -FROM: LURAY CAVERYS TO: 12 CLIFFSIDE DRIVE -Please note our location-(see LURAY CAVERNUS FOLDER MAP) IF you travel I8/ Through the Shenendoah Valley - at ENT 67 yours only 14 MILES From LURAY - 1 GIVE ME A CALL AT HOME IF YOU'RE ANYWHERE CLOSE ENOUGH TO VISIT. 703-743-6622 I VISITED The BOOK RESTAURANT AT BRADENTON ABOUT 3 WEEKS AGO - KEALLY ENTOYED IT -SHOT SOME COLOR

- OR RUSS SHOES - IF YOU HAVE ANY NEED FOR THESE GIVE ME A HOLLER. I BETIRED DEC. 31 and HOPE TO IMPROVE MY GOLF GAME and MY WATERCELORS. MAY GET BACK INTO ELYING -I HELD A COMMERCIAL LICENSE FOR ABOUT 15 YEARS - FLEW PIPER COMMNCHES and a CHEROKEE 6. 857 -CA VE DO

### KERMIT BRENT CAVEDO

march 16, 1986

12 Cliffside Drive Luray, Virginia 22835 Telephone 703-743-6622

Dear Russ,

Hens a change of address for me (bretiret Dec. 3185) and an address for Bill Brown our radio operator-

BILL BROWN 1137 SHOUP AVE 11

CAHOGA PARK, CALIFORNIA 91309

my son and I visited the

306th Bon'B GROUP RESTAURANT last

month - We really enjoyed our visit and

phot a number of color transparencies.

Would you like To see these - A group of

perend converted to Bow may be if interest

in "Echoen"

Brent found a photo of she Dad beside 'Fightim to it in' and another of our crew with Wiley glass who rode to Kill with no-

Best to you -

Dear Rus, I can't remember the number I "Meat Hound "pictured in The Cornent issue of Ehoes" Here's some his try of this plane that you may be inthusted in may be inthusted in manage Center Conley-Pilot, manage Cette-Co-Pilat, Roger Lindowy Bombardier picked this IDOW. pland up in Jalina, Kausa - Flow To West Polm Beach for a couple of day then to Homestead die Base, below Miamie - at Homestead we named the plane " meat House" and the insignia was painted on Lya felson otationed there. We flew to fouth america, ascension Island, West Sprica, morkocco and Borington, England. There the airplane has token away from no and I don't remember seeing it againdidn't know it new to the 306th It appeared in Color on the

Cover of a British magazine - I think its was "The allustrated Linden? Hews. Dean give my lest eigach to Jour rife I lost Army in 1988 -Lincully; termit Bravedo P.S. Im glad you're Dam Foath "again! 20 August 2990

### Dear Jerry:

June and I returned home last evening after a 3,000 mile trip, all family gatherings, which kind of tuned us up for the trek to San Antonio.

We were both saddeded to learn of Amy's death, and extend our belated condolences to you. If you are ever traveling through the Charlotte area we would be delighted to have you as a house guest for a night or two. Our rates are terrific!

I received a book order a bit ago from one of your sons, a Richmond dentist, I believe. Tell him that I am promised delivery of the books this week, so it shouldn't be too long before he gets a copy.

Between traveling and working on 306th things I keep very busy, sometimes too busy. But, I insist on taking a nap every afternoon, and have convinced June that its a good idea for me. She refuses, putting in her time pulling weeds and such other useless occupations. But, she's happy puttering in the yard, and I mow the lawn and pick up her trash. It works out pretty well that way.

If I have time this week and next, before leaving for San Antonio on Labor Day, I'll finish up a brick walk in the back yard. Sp, there is much to do. You know, owning a house in like love, one damn thing after another!

All the best to you, and we do hope that our paths will cross once again, one of these days.

Dec. 10,1992 Wear Russ, In the 306 th ECHOS, Vol 17, No 4 there is a photo of my crew-Roger Lindsey has the bombardier and I was the manigator. The designations should be reversed in your eards.
Hope you folks have a fine
Christmas-Jinurely, termit

Piotemond, Unaimia 23235 lotof Boring ropes London m ins fore

Baxcetta Arnett Price and Kermit Brent Cavedo announce their marriage Saturday, the thirtieth of March Nineteen hundred and ninety-six The Benjamin Waller Garden Williamsburg, Virginia

P.S. & attended the 40th neurin a Thurlaigh with forey in 1982. Great people & good fun: Brok læseds 11-16-02 Dear Russell, my brother, ferry (KSRMIT B.) CAVEDO, navigator 369th, used to let me need the Echor. But I haven't seen one since today & I was dated out 2001. a copy of your book 306th Echoes 1975-2000 of you have a copy left, places, send it to the address below. OR F ALLEN CAVEDO
303 ROSLYN RD
RICHMOND VA 23226-1640