

What You Have Always Wanted To Know About the PIMA Project, But Were Afraid to Ask

In search of the story behind the PIMA Project, I contacted Carol and Chuck Monka of Tucson, AZ, who were there from the get go. They have furnished the following information to share on what has transpired over the past several years. In the center of the page is a photo of Chuck (right) presenting the TAC Tanker contribution check for \$3275 to Ed Harrow, the PIMA Air Director. The photo was taken last fall and would be published in the Pima Air Quarterly. Editor: NC

Here is the chronological history of the KB-50 at PIMA.

"It all started with the Langley, VA reunion in 1990. We used the roster from Rocky Weishar and wrote to other squadrons for their listing. Millie Sanders was only one who answered, giving us the 622nd. Then we went to the 421st reunion in Orlando (1992) and got more names. Chuck's goal was to advertise the fact that the KB was at PIMA and guys should stop to see it. Then that went on to his new goal to combine ALL TANKERS into a single group and we started the TANKER newsletter from PIMA. We were fortunate, as they did the printing and non-profit mailing which originally was paid for by Chuck.

PIMA advised us to form a Foundation for tax free donations and that way donations could only go to restoration." In a letter sent out by Chuck on 28 October 1996, he shared his desire to get help through donations for restoring the KB-50 at Tucson in the PIMA Air & Space Museum where he was a volunteer. He mentioned the work the museum did and the fact that thousands of visitors come by to view their historical aircraft.

In 1997, Chuck wrote a couple of update letters to the members thanking them for their contributions and indicating that the PIMA KB-50 was #090372 out of Biggs (431st). He also

mentioned the planned historical display which needed patches and rosters for some of the squadrons. A paragraph held info on the future endeavors of the museum and its educational program.

In 1998, a third update was written stating that several local tanker members had formed a committee: Manny Alegria, Tom Flynn, Van Williamson, Harry Connors joined Chuck. He noted that one response to his letters was from B/G Bill Lackey, who said he had done a lot of flying in "our bird." The big news in that letter was the announcement of the first ALL TANKERS REUNION Oct. 9-11 at Warner Robins, GA being organized by Gil Switzer. There was a missing name list and a short survey for having a reunion in Tucson.

Following the Georgia Reunion, Chuck wrote his last letter announcing the formation of the TAC TANKERS ASSOCIATION with its officer slate (Pres.-Ted Buck (429, 4505), VP-Nate Hill (421, 429), Sec.-Jorge Mangual (421, 427), Treas.-Bo Ault (429) and Legal Eagle-George Graves. Chuck would be the KB-50 Project/Archives Dept. Membership dues were set at \$10 per year. He added that some separate reunions were to be headed up by Bill Dietzel (420) and Bob Cleckler (622). A Tucson 2000 gathering was planned for May (later changed to April) and Nate Hill stepped up to organize that one.

Those of you who have been members of the organization from that point know the REST of the story.



Suddenly Senior

This column entitled "Suddenly Senior" was written by a man with a cap that says "Old Fart". Some of you don't qualify yet, but thought you would enjoy the humor. He says, "As I grow in age, I value older women most of all. Here are just a few reasons why."

"An older woman will never wake you in the middle of the night to ask, "What are you thinking?" She doesn't care what you think.

An older woman knows herself well enough to be assured in who she is, what she is, what she wants and from whom. Few women past the age of 50 gives a damn what you might think about her.

An older single woman usually has had her fill of "meaningful relationships" and "commitment". The last thing she needs in her life is another dopey, clingy, whiny, Dependent lover!

Older women are dignified. They seldom have a screaming match with you at the opera or in the mid-

dle of an expensive restaurant. Of course, if you deserve it, they won't hesitate to shoot you if they think they can get away with it.

Most older women cook well. They care about cleanliness and are generous with praise, often undeserved.

An older woman has the self-assurance to introduce you to her women friends. A younger woman with a man will often ignore even her best friend because she doesn't trust the guy with other women. Older women couldn't care less.

Older Women get psychic as they age. You never have to confess your sins to an older woman. They always know.

An older woman looks good wearing bright red lipstick. This is not true of younger women or drag queens.

Once you get past a wrinkle or two, an older woman is far sexier than her younger counterpart. Her libido's stronger, her fear of pregnancy gone. Her experience of lovemaking is honed and reciprocal and she's lived long enough to know how to please a man in ways her daughter could never dream of. Young men, have something to look forward to.

Older women are forthright and honest. They'll tell you right off you are a jerk if you are acting like one.

Yes, we praise older women for a multitude of reasons. Unfortunately, it's not reciprocal. For every stunning, smart, well coifed babe of ?? there is a bald, paunchy relic in yellow pants making a fool of himself with some 22 year old waitress.

Ladies, I apologize for all of us.

That men are genetically inferior is no secret.

Count your blessings that we die off at a far younger age, leaving you the best part of your lives to appreciate the exquisite woman you've become, without the distraction of some demanding old fart clinging and whining his way into your serenity.

