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Once upon a time at Area 51 there was a happening that just might be interesting to the people that worked there during the Christmas Time of 1964.

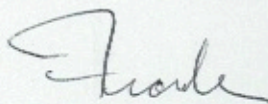
The OPS section gave me an assignment to fly a Security person to Beale AFB using one of our F-101Bs for a classified briefing on the Oxcart Program. The Security person's name is Edward Evans, and he and I have been in touch over the years since we left Area 51 for greener pastures. Following my tour as an Air Force chase pilot and Project Pilot I returned to the Air Force and Ed Evans went on to the Seminary, becoming a Catholic Priest.

For the interest of the enlisted maintenance people from those days, the F-101B involved was tail number 60-252. I briefed Evans on the life support systems of the F-101, including the use of the ejection seat if required. So off we went more or less directly for Beale AFB, Calif.

Along the way something happened and I lost the power to the flight instruments, Attitude gyro, directional system etc. So I climbed to "on-top" conditions over the Mountains and proceeded on to the Beale area. Once there I made a partial panel let-down followed by landing at Beale.

Father Evans attached recent letter explains how he remembers that day, December 23, 1964.

I have obscured Father Evans contact information from his letter. If anyone desires to contact him, contact me for his info, explaining your need please.



Frank Murray Lt. Col USAF (R)  
Used to be CIA A-12 Pilot

23 DECEMBER 2015

DEAR STELLA, FRANK AND ALL,

I PRAY I FIND YOU WELL. I AM HAPPY TO REPORT THAT I AM WELL, AND:

THIS MORNING AT 11:00 AM I AGAIN HAD THE UNIQUE PRIVILEGE OF OFFERING MASS FOR YOU AND YOURS ON BOTH SIDES OF YOUR FAMILY TREE FOR ALL THE GENERATIONS BACK TO ADAM AND EVE IN THANKS GIVING (ON THE 51ST ANNIVERSARY) FOR:

YOUR SKILL AS A PILOT, FRANK, WHICH SAVED BOTH OF OUR LIVES AT 40,000 FEET OVER THE HIGH SIERRA'S, INSTRUMENT FAILURE, LEAVING ONLY NEEDLE AND BALL.... "MAYDAY, MAYDAY, BOXER 252. "ED, HAVE YOU GOT A ROSARY?" I DID. "I HAVE A WIFE AND KIDS BACK IN LAS VEGAS AND I WANT TO GET HOME FOR CHRISTMAS JUST AS MUCH AS YOU DO. YOU PRAY AND I'LL FLY."

DID WE EVER! PERFECT 3-POINT-LANDING AT BEALE! I WOULDN'T BE A PRIEST TODAY, FRANK, WITHOUT THAT LANDING....

EVER GRATEFULLY,  
IN JESUS AND MARY, QUEEN OF THE SKIES,  
YOUR FRIEND,

REV. EDWARD EVANS

P. O. Box [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

FATHER ED

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