

Museum Board  
Executive Committee

Chairman of the Board  
Glen Thomson

President & CEO  
Elizabeth R. Miller

Vice President  
George Marrett

Secretary  
Paul Clark

Treasurer  
Conrad Martin

Board Members

Obbie Atkinson  
Ed Chidlaw  
Gary Corippo  
John Cromwell  
Al Davis  
Chuck Miller  
William Russell, MD  
Al Schade  
Bruce Toomey  
Marty Wright

Advisory Board

The Honorable  
Wm. P. Clark  
RADM James M. Gleim  
USN Ret.  
Lt. Col. Oliver North  
USMC Ret.  
Willis Irwin, MD  
Tom Bordonaro

Museum Information  
Phone (805) 227-0440  
(Answered by Machine)

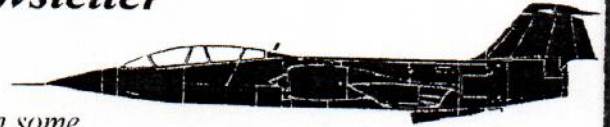
FAX 238-9317  
Can also be used to  
reach personnel at the  
Museum

Museum Hours  
Saturday 10am - 4pm  
Sunday 12n - 3pm

Mailing address:  
P.O. Box 570  
Paso Robles, CA 93447

# Estrella Warbird Museum

## Estrella Squadron Newsletter



*All the news that's fit to print and then some*

4251 Dry Creek Road Paso Robles, California

Volume XII Number 4

Paso Robles, California

April 2001

### April Meeting

The April Meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 4, 2001 at Thomson Hall with Social Hour commencing at 6:00pm and Dinner at 7:00pm

Chef John Himes has said that we will be having Baked Ham for the dinner with yams and all the trimmings. We've been having some great dinners lately so come hungry and enjoy!

**Reservations are a Must. Call 227-0440**

Our speaker for the evening will be our own, relatively new member, Gene Hartley. As a former B-24 pilot. Gene will give the B-24 side of the never-ending argument between B-17 and B-24 men over the merits of the two planes. This should be an interesting and thought provoking evening as well as a lot of fun.

A brief bio on Gene is published on page 2.

### The Library is Finished !

Well, 99% at least!! After a lot of work by a lot of people the Library is a fact. The carpeting was put down last week and the place looks terrific. There was not quite enough carpeting donated in the beginning by Dr. Chris Henry so the good Doctor graciously dug deep again and provided us with enough more to finish the job. Our most sincere thanks for making the final donation that made the room a Library!

Many of the shelves have to be moved (that's taking out all the books and moving the shelves and then putting all the books back *again*) and the monster table donated by the Clarks has to be hauled up the stairs and shoehorned into the room. It's a great table and will look most impressive as a conference center.

Everything has been painted and sheet-rocked and it's something of which to be proud. The big air conditioning ducts are walled off from the main room so the place is a Library and not a junk pile or storage room! So many people worked on the place that it's hard to thank them individually but it's a classic example of what can be accomplished by a group of great volunteers. With special thanks to our own Andy Henry!!

Check the place out, it's worth it

### Docents Rally Again!!

After years of begging and pleading with a few stalwart and long suffering volunteers to be Docents, we are absolutely delighted with the turn out for the recent visit by the fourth grade from the Fresno Christian School. We sent a note to each of our Docents, old and new, and asked for help on Friday the 23rd of March. Out of a list of 19 current volunteers 9 showed up and many others called but had other commitments like working for a living and stuff like that In addition, Betty and Chuck Miller were



**Committee Chairs**

Program

George Marrett  
466-7640

Dinners

John Himes  
466-6680

Membership

Obbie Atkinson  
238-9212

Grounds

John Kendall  
239-8029

Air Show

Chuck Miller  
466-1212

Ground Equipment

Dave Geiger  
239-1598

Insurance

Brian Webster  
237-0222

Public Relations & Media

Catherine Paine  
239-2274

Refreshments

Tom Gabele  
237-1567

Photo

Wally Engle  
227-0245

Site Improvements

Glen Thomson  
238-4858

Research Librarian

K. O. Eckland  
466-5373

Newsletter Editor

Bruce Toomey  
238-9266

Activities

OPEN

there, as usual, so we had all kinds of wonderful help. On site were Art Britton, Larry Campo, Mary Chambers, Arnold Hermansen, Doug Miner, Bob Singleton, Bruce Toomey, Tom Weiss



***President's  
Corner***

*Betty Miller*

***Special Thanks to...***

Our great group of Docents. We had 51 4<sup>th</sup> grade students plus 12 adults from the Fresno Christian School arrive for a tour on Friday, March 23. We had 9 docents turn out to help! The kids and their teachers and parents really enjoyed it and the school donated over \$60.00 to the Museum!

The 85 people who called in their dinner reservations for the St. Pats corned beef and cabbage dinner on March 7<sup>th</sup>. What a great turnout! I am so very proud of you all!!! Keep up the great work.

**Call 227-0440**

***April Tasks***

I have a real need for folks with some skill with a hammer, saw and nails...I have asked, begged and pleaded for the last three newsletters, but to no avail. If ANYone out there can saw a board, call me at 466-1212 and lets talk! I guarantee it is NOT a major project, and you can do it at home at your leisure. (Besides, I will never criticize your carpentry skills!)

**Airshow 2001**

**Bob and Mary Chambers** volunteered to be the Vendor Coordinators. They are handling all requests from local civic groups and commercial vendors for booths at the Airshow. The available booths

are filling fast so if you belong to a local organization that wants to sell food or beverages, you need to contact them at 239-2888.

***Housekeeping Notes  
from "MOM"***

pg 2

As you know, we usually try to straighten up the hall and get it vacuumed after our monthly dinner. The Dinner Meeting Decoration Committee has been arriving before the following meeting to find a real mess — tables scattered, chairs moved around and a FILTHY floor that has to be re-vacuumed. This takes a lot of extra time and effort. We all enjoy their extra special touches, but they have had it with the mess they keep arriving to.

As you may know our meeting hall is being used by the City of Paso Robles for the Citizens Airport Advisory Committee, the Civil Air Patrol and the E. A. A. as well as for the monthly dinner and the monthly Museum Board meeting. We also have ground school classes going on. All of these "outside" groups have been very good about putting everything back. However we still seem to have problems.

Each of us needs to take pride in our facility that is such a great improvement over the dirty, drafty hangar where we used to meet.

Please pick up after yourselves and put chairs and tables back where you found them. We are going to try to leave out 1 vacuum in the Bar area so that if you track in dirt, etc, you can vacuum it up. Please remember that there isn't a resident housekeeper to pick up after us, so we must all do our part.

***Thanks, Love, Mom***



**Estrella Squadron  
Newsletter**

is published monthly as an unofficial and voluntary contribution. Contents and opinions, other than byline columns and Letters to the

Editor, are the sole responsibility of the Editor. Bruce MacE. Toomey, unless otherwise noted.

Submissions for inclusion are not only welcomed but solicited, including articles, display and classified ads, etc.

Please send all submissions to the Editor at Box 3065, Paso Robles, CA 93447 or FAX to (805) 238-9516 or email to [bruce@toomey.com](mailto:bruce@toomey.com)

Graphics, computer layout, design and use of copier as well as paper and other supplies are the contribution of Stuart Toomey and

Toomey Racing USA  
3029 Propeller Drive  
Paso Robles, CA  
93446

Bruce Toomey has no business connection with or financial interest in Toomey Racing USA.

**Calendar of Coming Events 2001**

April 4, Wednesday Estrella Warbird Museum Dinner Meeting and Speaker. 6:00pm Thomson Hall .

April 18 Wednesday, EWM Board of Directors Meeting. 7:00pm. Open to all members.

April 19, Thursday. Airshow Committee Meeting 7:00pm. Thomson Hall.

April 26, Thursday. Airport Advisory Committee Meeting, 7:00pm Thomson Hall.

April 27-30, Friday thru Tuesday. EAA B-17 "Aluminum Overcast" visit.

April 28, Saturday EAA B-17 Barbecue 5:00pm - 7:00pm Sponsored by EWM.. Tickets \$10.00. At the Museum

May 1 (Tuesday) Cuesta College Tour with History Advisor & Students. 1:30 pm at the Museum

August 25, Saturday. Dinner Dance & USO Show. "A Night in the Tropics". At the Museum (Social Hour 6:00pm. Dinner 7:00pm. USO Show 7:45pm. Dancing 9:00pm to ?)

August 26, Sunday. 2:00pm. Air Show Volunteers lunch and Show prep, (T-shirts, badges etc.

To be a volunteer one must call the Coordinator Judy Crownover at 238-3426.

September 8, Saturday Sponsor's Reception 6:00pm to 9:00pm for those sponsor packages of \$200.00 and above. This reception is not open to the public.

September 9, Sunday. "28th Annual Paso Robles Airshow". Rollie Gates Entrance. Gates open at 8:00am. Parade 11:00am to 12:30. Shoe at 12:30pm - 4:00pm

January 9 , Wednesday Paso Robles Chamber of Commerce "Mixer" at the Museum.

~~~~~

**Brief Bio of Gene Hartley**

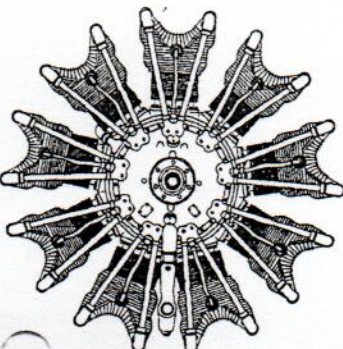
P93

Fifty eight years ago the United States Air Force began a precision daylight bombing offensive against Nazi Germany from air bases in rural England. In support of this mission, some 350,000 Americans were transported to English soil. For many, this was a period of great danger -even death for some. It was also a time of endless fatigue, comradeship, boredom and, frequently, the excitement of radically new experiences and emotions. The 389th Bomb Group became an integral part of that offensive.

Fifty eight years ago our speaker for the April program was a nineteen-year-old Aviation Cadet training for wings and a commission.. He was a freshman math major at San Diego State when we suffered Pearl Harbor. He was admitted to the Aviation Cadet program

Upon graduation he was assigned to B-24 training at Kirtland Field, Albuquerque, NM. Next stop, transition at March Field, California. From different schools a co-pilot, a navigator, a bombardier, an engineer, a radio operator and four gunners were assigned to newly minted 2nd Lieutenant Gene Hartley. They had nine weeks during which they were to weld ten strangers into a working air crew.

Then to Hamilton Field near San Francisco. The crew was assigned an airplane and given orders to fly to Grenier Field in New Hampshire. Following a few days lay-over the pilot was given a heading (nearly due North) and a sealed envelope to be opened over the Maine/Canada border. The envelope contained orders to fly to Wales and the





**Estrella Warbird  
Museum, Inc.**

**Life Members**

Nineteen and  
Counting!!

1. Glen Thomson
2. Obbie Atkinson
3. Allen Smith
4. Conrad Martin
5. Gary Corippo
6. Al Schade
7. John Cromwell
8. Ed Chidlaw
9. Ken Grubb
10. William Sima
11. Gerald Taylor
12. Marty Wright
13. Marilyn Webster
14. Brian Webster
15. Jim Pickens
16. Arnold Hermansen
17. Greg Sudderth
18. Bob Kinsell
19. James Bryant
- \*20. Bruce Toomey  
(\*new this month)

European Theater of operations. (They all knew where they were headed but it was a secret).

In England, assigned to the 389th Bomb group of the 8th Air Force, the crew completed its combat tour.

After the war Gene returned to school as a History major preparing for a career in education; teaching and administration. Gene will give the B-24 side of the never ending

argument between B-17 and B-24 men over the merits of the two planes. He will offer some historical perspective of those years, on the home front as well as the many theaters of war in which we were engaged. Finally, a factual day flying a mission with the 389th Bomb Group.

Four memories of the England we knew!



He kept us flying



Anytime on pass



Do I have to go?



Our heat? a coke stove

(Thanks to Gene!)

**A Clarification**

In a message from our Safety Director, John Cromwell, published in the March newsletter, an editorial change was made by the Editor, within the article, that apparently has been misconstrued. The article had to do with some questionable flying activities by aircraft that were perceived to belong to the Museum but which do not. Mention was made in the article that we do not, as a Museum, own any flying aircraft. and the sentence was changed by adding the words "other than the Casa Jet". This was my doing simply to make the statement factual in the event an issue was made of the remark. As sure as God made little green apples if the statement had been printed as

received we would have had 15 complaints about false information being published.

pg 4

To completely clarify the circumstances, the actions of certain aircraft in the article did not in any way include the Casa jet and no such implication was intended.

**Unsung Heros Department**

Gary Corippo, who has never failed to go out of his way to give credit to others who have done a good job. As CO of the CAF he even had a column in the newsletter every month thanking individuals for what they did. And as things often go. Gary has seldom been singled out for the same sort of treatment himself.

We have attracted a lot of new members over the years who don't really know too much about the background of our organization and how it got started. It got started by Gary Corippo, that's how, and he has been the constant spark plug of the group since before day one. Gary was responsible for getting us our first home in the Nunno hangar. It was his foresight (read wild idea!) to make the deal about the buildings at the old almond plant on 4th street for free! as possible housing for our fledgling Museum. It was Gary who got the whole thing going and who tapped everyone he knew to help us get mountains of stuff at cost or free which made the whole thing possible.

It was Gary who, for two terms of being the CO of our CAF unit was responsible for most of the major construction and improvements we now have.

Over and above the tremendous influence he has had on every aspect of the Museum, many people don't know of the hundreds of hours he has put in, night after night, after a full days work, often alone, doing all kinds of grunt work that most of the rest of us would rather



overlook. And then  
spending weekend after  
weekend doing  
everything else he could  
to improve the place

Sometimes it's sort of  
unfair to single out  
individuals who have  
done so much because  
so many people have  
helped in so many ways.

In Gary's case, however,  
it can honestly be said  
that without him over  
the years there would  
not be an Estrella  
Warbird Museum. Every  
square foot of ground  
and every square foot of  
building space has the  
imprint of his footsteps.



Docent Allen Smith for  
coming out on other  
than assigned days just  
to do some extra  
cleaning! (He says he's  
just an old sailor and it's  
in his blood!)

John Kendall for  
cleaning up the beds  
around Thomson Hall  
again and for keeping  
the grounds looking so  
great.

Betty Miller for  
handling five different  
tour groups in three  
days, mornings and  
afternoons for a total of  
more than 100 children  
and adults who have

now been exposed to the Museum just  
during the past week!

pg 5

### Our New Brochures are Ready!

Thanks to Obbie Atkinson and Jim Bryant  
and after one massive amount of frustration  
(technical design and printing problems),  
and effort, our new brochures are printed  
and ready. And in Color!! We have included  
one in each newsletter for your perusal and  
we are sure you will find them far superior  
to anything else we have done to date in this  
line.

### And Now The Campaign Begins!!

Now Obbie hasn't been doing all this work  
and preparation just for the fun of it. As our  
Membership Chairman, the whole thrust of  
this endeavor has been to mount a  
membership drive that we hope will double  
our numbers! These brochures will not do  
us one iota of good if they just sit in a box in  
the Museum! They have to be placed in  
Chambers of Commerce, motels, certain  
businesses, wineries and other spots where  
they will be seen and be read by  
tourists and residents alike!!

Obbie has purchased some fairly  
inexpensive but attractive wall hangars and  
counter top stands where these brochures  
can be placed and be available. They have  
to be distributed and the distribution is up  
to us. They need to go to surrounding towns  
and cities in the places mentioned above  
and the dispensers MUST be maintained.  
There isn't a worse put off than to go into a  
Chamber of Commerce, for instance, and  
seeing a high dollar, fancy pamphlet holder  
with the name of some prestigious business  
on it, totally empty or with one dog-eared  
promotional piece in it. We have ordered  
10,000 of these brochures so we don't have  
to be cheap about getting them into the  
proper hands.

We are asking that those who live out of  
the immediate Paso Robles area take a  
batch of these with you to Cambria or  
Morro Bay or San Luis or Fresno or  
Modesto etc. and place them in a public  
place and go back every month or so to  
see that the stock is maintained. No  
business is going to call us to tell us to  
refill our holders. They will just toss them  
out if they are not maintained. Most  
businesses respond pretty well to being  
asked to make a bit of room for a  
brochure holder, especially those who  
have any sort of dependency on the  
tourist business.

This is it! The success or failure of this  
campaign rests on each of us. Granted,  
everyone can't do this for one legitimate  
reason or another but there are many of us  
who can help out with this program and  
we are asking for your assistance. Contact  
Obbie Atkinson at meetings or at  
238-9212 if you can help.

### And That Ain't All!!

Don't forget the programs that Obbie  
talked about at the last monthly meeting,  
particularly the Life Membership offer.  
As he stated, during the month of April  
until the May 1st billing date for dues,  
Life Memberships will be available at  
#350.00!! This is allowing credit for this  
past year's dues. The current cost of a Life  
Membership is \$400.00. After May 1 the  
cost of a Life Membership will rise to  
\$500.00

So. . . this is a great opportunity for  
everyone to show their support of the  
Museum and to help all of us this year to  
finish our projects which will allow us to  
rent the Hall for needed income

Please give this proposal some thought  
and do what you can. I am happy to take  
advantage of this offer myself and with  
great pleasure will become the 20th Life  
Member of the Estrella Warbird Museum.



**MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING**

**ESTRELLA WARBIRDS MUSEUM**

March 21, 2001

Meeting called to order by Chairman, Glen Thomson.

Present: Chidlaw, Clark, Marrett, Martin, Miller B., Miller C., Thomson, Toomey

Absent: Atkinson, Corippo, Cromwell, Davis Al, Russell, Schade, Wright

(Tonight's meeting was abbreviated due to having a quorum present for only a portion of the meeting.)

1. Treasurer's report was given by Conrad Martin. Ed Chidlaw moved to accept both the Treasurer's report and the Minutes of the previous meeting. Betty Miller seconded. Motion passed.

2. Chuck Miller gave the airshow report. Chuck now has numerous confirmed acts and extensive military involvement in the show. He and Betty have had great success in selling sponsorships.

3. Betty Miller gave the Docent Report. The Museum is seeing great improvement in the Docent program in 2001. Participation by members has increased greatly.

**NEW BUSINESS**

1. Betty Miller, Glenn Thomson and Bruce Toomey will serve on the Nominating

Committee.

2. Betty Miller reported that Chris Giminez, a computer consultant, is interested in helping the Museum update its website in trade for membership and advertising. He will submit a proposal to the Board.

3. Betty Miller reported that the Paso Robles Chamber of Commerce is interested in holding a Mixer at the Museum on January 9, 2002. Ed Chidlaw moved to accept the Chamber's offer. Bruce Toomey seconded. Motion passed.

4. Bruce Toomey discussed the need to update the Museum Mission Statement.

5. Bruce Toomey reported that Wayne King notified him of an opportunity to show the F-4 cockpit at the Point Magu Airshow at the end of March. It was agreed by the Board that due to the short notice, we would not participate this year.

There being no other business brought before the Board, the Meeting was adjourned.

---

Paul E. Clark, Secretary

pg 7

## Docent Shift Assignments

As of 3/17/01

### April 2001

| <u>Date</u> | <u>Time</u> | <u>Docent Name</u> | <u>Phone #</u> |
|-------------|-------------|--------------------|----------------|
| Sat 07      | 10 - 1      | A. Smith           | 239-9433       |
| Sat 07      | 1 - 4       | R. Blomquist       | 227-0362       |
| Sun 08      | 12 - 3      | A. Britton         | 226-9627       |
| Sat.14      | 10 - 1      | L. Campo           | 238-7702       |
| Sat 14      | 1 - 4       | M. Chambers        | 239-2888       |
| Sun 15      | 12 - 3      | A. Britton         | 226-9627       |
| Sat 21      | 10 - 1      | A. Smith           | 239-9433       |
| Sat 21      | 1 - 4       | D. Miner           | 239-1054       |
| Sun 22      | 12 - 3      | T. Weiss           | 239-2637       |
| Sat 28      | 10 - 1      | L. Campo           | 238-7702       |
| Sat 28      | 1 - 4       | R Blomquist        | 227-0362       |
| Sun 29      | 12 - 3      | H. Earley          | 239-2353       |

Please call Bruce Toomey 238-9266 if you have a problem with your assigned shift

Please note: Main Gate lock combo is 1945

Side door lock combo is 5555

Code to shut off alarm: 1941 ENT

Code to set alarm: All doors closed, Command 1.

Problems: call B. Toomey at home or on cel 459-1867.


DOCENTFM



**PETE JOHNSTON**  
 CHEVROLET • GEO • PONTIAC • OLDSMOBILE  
 BUICK • Cadillac

**MICHAEL T. SLABON**  
 SALES & LEASING CONSULTANT

805-238-8478 PAGE me 181111  
 805-238-7800 2485 THEATRE DRIVE • BOX 607  
 805-643-3804 PASO ROBLES, CA 93446




**MILLER**  
**DRILLING COMPANY**

**BOB MILLER**  
 (805) 434-1888

Well Drilling  
 Pump Sales & Service  
 Complete Machine Shop

301 North Main  
 Templeton, CA 93465  
 State License No. 324634



**THE GUTTERMAN**  
 No. County: 466-7013

San Luis Obispo • 5 Cities  
 Morro Bay • Los Osos • Cambria • Cayucos

Call toll free  
 1-800-420-4484

Dave Yamold  
 Seamless Aluminum Rain Gutters  
 Lic. # 592066



**TRAVEL TIME**  
 Professional Travel Services

**JUDY CORIPPO**  
 Travel Consultant  
 805-238-2090

183-B Niblick Road • Paso Robles, California 93446 • USA  
 Agency: 805-239-1700 • Toll Free: 888-239-1700


LAW OFFICES

**CLARK, CALI & NEGRANTI LLP**

1531 Higuera Street, San Luis Obispo  
 (805) 546-8700 FAX (805) 546-8781

**NORTH COUNTY OFFICE**  
 Clark Building  
 1031 Pine Street, Paso Robles  
 (805) 238-7110 FAX (805) 238-1324

*Serving San Luis Obispo County with our General Civil Practice  
 emphasizing Agriculture, Business, Real Property, Estate Planning,  
 Government Law and Litigation*



**SONJIA JOHNSTON BAER**  
 COMMERCIAL PILOT  
 FAA-CERTIFIED FLIGHT INSTRUCTOR

• PRIMARY AND ADVANCED  
 • MULTI-ENGINE  
 • INSTRUMENT

(PH) 805.434.3029  
 (VM) 805.550.3436

JOHN HIMES  
 Owner

**The Paper Works**

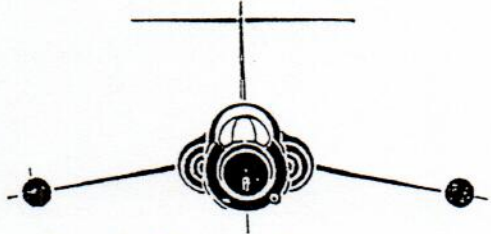
✶ Printing and Copy Center ✶ Broadcast Mail  
 ✶ Full Service Direct Mail ✶ The Coupon Fabric

(805) 466-6680 5900 Estrada Avenue  
 FAX (805) 466-4368 Atascadero, CA 93422

**Joe Modica Jr. CFP**

Certified Financial Planner  
 Registered Investment Advisor

7070 Morro Road, Suite C (805) 461-5903  
 Atascadero, CA 93422 Fax: 461-5922



**Estrella Warbird Museum, Inc.**  
 P.O. Box 570  
 Paso Robles, CA 93447

998

UNITED STATES POSTAGE  
 137 PB9787956  
 8000 00.34 MAR 30 01  
 9598 MAILED FROM ZIP CODE 93446

To: ~~Rosemary Netto~~  
~~998 Pine Road~~  
~~San Miguel CA 93451~~