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Gleim USN Ret.

Martin Wright

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Tom Bordonero

Museum Info

Phone 227-0440

Answered by Machine

www.ewarbirds.org

FAX 238-9317

Can also be used to reach
personnel at Museum

Hours

Saturday 10am - 4pm

Sunday 12n to 3pm

In reality, whenever the gate is
open!

Estrella Warbird Museum, Inc.

Estrella Warbird Museum Newsletter



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

Volume XV Number 4

Paso Robles, California

April 2004

April Meeting

The April Meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 7, 2004 at Thomson Hall with Social Hour beginning at 6:00pm and Dinner at 7:00pm.

Chef John and crew will be offering either baked or broiled chicken with all the trimmings. Bring your appetite!

**RESERVATIONS WILL BE
ABSOLUTELY NECESSARY!**
Call the Museum at 227-0440 or Betty Miller at 466-1212

Our speaker for the evening will be Col. Richard C. Lathrop, USAF Ret.

Colonel Lathrop's early career extended from 1943, including two combat tours in the Southwest Pacific Area in WWII. until 1946 when he re-entered civilian life (as a Captain in the Army Air Force Reserve) and re-entered the University of Wisconsin where he earned a BS and MS in electrical engineering and physics and ultimately a PhD in 1953.

He returned to active duty in 1951 and had an extremely varied and interesting career, attending the Air Force Test Pilot School and eventually becoming Commandant of the School in 1959. He was on the faculty of the Air Force Academy and served with the US Military Assistance Group in Pakistan in 1965 and 1967. This just

goes on from one fascinating assignment to another including combat tours in Vietnam, until his retirement in 1974. Please refer to his short biography on page 7. It's well worth reading.

Big Plans For The Future!

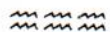
And the future is now!! As you all know, there has been much discussion about a possible new building which would be a real museum, somewhere on the grounds. After much consideration your Board of Directors has determined that the cost of erecting a completely new building, which would include permits, very expensive engineering etc., is just not within the realm of reason. The Board has come up with an entirely different plan, part of which has been under consideration for some time, and that is to extend the Museum to the north by the 35 feet that was originally allowed for and then add 20 feet to the south across the front of the existing Museum.

The interior would have a separate hangar for our display aircraft and a dedicated museum area of 80' v 55'. The additional 20' x 80' at the south end would house a 20' x 45' Gift Shop. There has been considerable discussion regarding the function of the remaining 20' x 35' space, including the possibility of relocating our existing Research Library to that

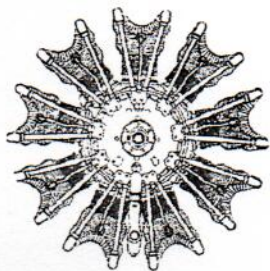
The Estrella Squadron Newsletter

is published monthly as an unofficial and voluntary contribution. Contents and opinions, other than by-line columns, 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 P.O. Box 3065, Paso Robles, CA 93447 or FAX to 238-9516 or e-mail to btomey805@charter.net.



Final hand folding sealing and stamping of the newsletter as well as the cost of mailing is being paid for as a donation from Pete Johnston and his helpful crew at Pete Johnston Chevrolet Cadillac.



area. This would allow easy access for everyone and would conform to the Federal Americans with Disabilities Act. (ADA)

Although the addition to our existing Museum Hangar would save us the considerable expense involved in a new building, preliminary estimates place the cost of a remodel at approximately \$150,000.00 to see the project through to completion

Again, as you all know, Glen Thomson has donated his Cessna 310 to the Museum to be sold at whatever is the current market price. While this is a fantastic offer it is not known just when the aircraft will be sold nor for what amount. In any event, whatever is obtained for the aircraft has also been marked for many other projects that have been outlined by our Facility Projects Planning Committee. These include a better BBQ roof, a storage building, fencing, paved aircraft display area, sealing and striping of the parking lot and a redesigned bar area and others.

The Board has decided to "bite the bullet", so to speak, and has approved a plan to raise the necessary money to get started on the project as soon as possible.

A sub-committee has been appointed to develop ideas for the new Museum addition to be presented to the architect/engineer. The members will be: For the Museum, Betty Miller and Carol Weiss; for the Gift Shop, Jackie Brooks; for the Library, K.O. Eckland. Ed Chidlaw, Chuck Miller, Glen Thomson and Gary Corippo will be meeting with architects, contractors and the City of Paso Robles to work on construction details.

This means, troops, that we are going to have to have one heck of a fund raising plan to get this off the ground! Fly-ins, USO Shows, and several other ideas are being considered but the fact remains that we are all going to have to do our best to interest people and businesses from all over the Central Coast and beyond to contribute to this improvement of a "destination" facility for the benefit of the entire community. More on this later!

Buy-A-Block

Our Buy-A-Block program is doing well but we need at least two more people to step forward so that we can complete an order for 20 plaques. This is a great opportunity to have your name permanently installed on the concrete pad in front of the Restoration Building like those on the north side of the Museum. Another idea is to be able to honor the memory of a friend or relative who might have served in the military or simply an individual who might have meant a good deal to you during your lifetime. The cost is \$100.00 and a check can be mailed to our Treasurer, Rosemary Netto, at 998 River Road., San Miguel, CA 93451. NOW, we still have room for plenty more plaques, the above is just to complete an order. Please think about it. Glen Thomson has already footed the bill for the concrete that has been poured, which has been a godsend in improving the muddy area in front of the building.

It would be nice to see that he is paid back for this as soon as possible. Let's chip in and get this handled!

Committee Chairpersons

Program

George Marrett
466-7640

Dinners

John Himes
466-6680

Membership

Obbie Atkinson
238-9212

Gift Shop

Jackie Brooks
462-8141

Grounds

John Kendall
239-8029

City Liaison

Chuck Miller
466-1212

Ground Equipment

Dave Geiger
238-1598

Insurance

Brian Webster
237-0222

Refreshments

Rosemary Netto
467-3521
Cathy Neitz
Bob Miller

Decorating

Rosemary Netto
Judy Corippo

PIO..

Jim Pickens
783-2334

(e-mail) jpickens57@yahoo.com

Photo

Wally Engle
227-0245

Site Maintenance

Glen Thomson
238-4858

Newsletter Editor

Bruce Toomey
238-9266

Special Thanks Department!

And this month we are talking about improvements in the museum. Our sincere thanks to Pam Morrison and Judy Corippo for sewing the great covers for the display cases. These are dark blue navy duck pieces of fabric cut and sewn to fit the top of the cases and counters. This, of course, goes a long way in preventing dust buildup as well as the ever present bird doots. All the docents are most pleased because we no longer have to wrestle with the flimsy plastic sheets that were really a pain to handle. Many of the cloth covers are attached to the back of the display cases so they can simply be flipped off to show what's in the cases and easily flipped back without having to remember where you put them when you took them off. (That's a boon for some of us "older" single task types!)

Anyway, they are a most welcome improvement!

And Continuing.

Kudos to: the ever present Ron Brooks and Chuck Miller and Ed Chidlaw for the installation of the new water heater and softener, including all the new plumbing, which turned out to be a nightmare as is often the case.

And More Yet!

Pan Jewelers

A great big thanks to Nick Sherwin of Pan Jewelers for a wonderful donation of 10 (TEN!!) gift shop cabinets. These are beautiful cases and in great shape. Not only did he donate the above but also 9 (NINE!!) display cabinets. Out of the ashes of disaster Nick has made a contribution to us that will be

remembered for a long time. Not only did he donate the cases and displays he even loaned us the use of his trailer to transport them to the Museum!

Just another great reason for shopping locally and supporting our own Downtown Merchants Association members.

Also, our thanks to our stalwart moving crew composed of Gary Corippo, Jim Moody, Chuck Miller and Tom Weiss who spent most of the afternoon, today, getting this stuff out to the Museum.

Museum Tours

Every year The Templeton School District brings their kindergartners for a tour of the Museum and the Paso Robles Regional Airport. On March 29, 31 and April 1 the Museum hosted 140 kindergartners and as many as 80 parents on their annual visit!

Hats off to Jackie Brooks, Ron Brooks, Chuck Miller, Betty Miller and Carol Weiss who shepherded the 140 kids through the Museum and Terminal Building. This is a real boon for the Museum because it means 90 adults came to the Museum including some who may have never been there or even heard of the place, for that matter.

A special treat was provided by Captain Ron Brooks and Colonel Chuck Miller when they wheeled out the L-5 onto the area in front of the Hangar. Ron sat in the cockpit and moved controls while Chuck explained how the airplane flies. All were impressed with the questions asked by the kids so this

demo really seemed to mean a great deal to them.

In our continuing efforts to promote our airport and support the City of Paso Robles, the Museum guides the children through the new Terminal and explains the importance of our regional airport. Roger Oxborrow gave his usual fun tour of his office and the "magic TV cameras" that provide surveillance of the entire airport which all the kids seem to enjoy.

This year an added treat was a tour through the new "Matthews at the Airport" restaurant. Not only did owner Matthew Riley take the kids on a complete tour of the restaurant and the kitchen but he made up snacks for the parents and children as well

All in all, this was a very positive happening for both the City as well as the Museum.

Dues Due May First

Just a brief reminder that Museum membership dues will be due on May 1. You will be receiving a notice (invoice) in the mail soon but it wouldn't hurt to pay in advance and save the postage!! Send checks to Rosemary Netto, 998 River Road, San Miguel, CA 93451.

Many thanks!

Group Trip To Washington, D.C.

The following was received from our super travel expert, Judy Corippo:

Our group trip to Washington, D.C. planned for September 22-27 has received a great response. So far we have twenty people signed up for the trip with just four spaces

left. It will be fun to travel with Museum members and friends!

The package price of \$780 per person, double occupancy, includes:

Airport transfers from Dulles Airport and return.

Five hotel nights, baggage handling and one breakfast included.

One full day sightseeing on our exclusive motor coach with guide.

One all-day Red Trolley Hop on, Hop off, stop where you wish service to major sights. Special visits to the National Air & Space Museum and their new Udvar-Hazy facility

Alternative activities for spouses or those not "crazy" about military aircraft are being planned.

Air fare is not included. You can make your own travel arrangement or let Judy know if you need assistance.

A deposit of \$120. per person will reserve your space, with balance due July 10.

If you are interested, call Judy Corippo at 238-2090 soon! Just four spaces left and they may go fast. Judy is associated with Traveltime in Paso Robles. CST#2011760-110

This will be a great adventure!!

The Kiwanis Club of Paso Robles

As a service to one of our fellow community groups we would like to note the following: The Kiwanis Club of Paso Robles invites men and women interested in finding out more about joining the early

morning or the noon Club to attend a FREE TRI-TIP BARBEQUE DINNER on Saturday, April 17 from 5:00pm - 7:00pm at the Elks Club in Paso Robles. Call 237-9490 to reserve your free ticket.

Classified Ads

1974 Dodge Dart Swinger Model 2 door, 318 V8. Deep blue/green with brand new white vinyl hard top. New transmission, new tires. 103,000 original miles, one owner since new. This mini muscle car is a little gem for the right person. Asking \$3500 OBO. Call Mary Stoessel, 238-6950 or B. Toomey 238-9266



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**Estrella Wardbird Museum
Minutes of Board Meeting
March 17, 2004**

Meeting opened at 5 p.m. by 1st Vice President **Chuck Miller**. Others Directors present were: O. Atkinson, R. Brooks, J. Brooks, E. Chidlaw, G. Corippo, B. Miller, R. Netto, G. Thomson, B. Webster, T. Weiss. Editor, Bruce Toomey.

Minutes –MOTION: Ed Chidlaw moved to accept the February 18 minutes as received on e-mail. Second by: Obbie Atkinson. CARRIED.

Treasurer Report was handed out and reviewed.

MOTION: Gary Corippo moved to accept the Treasurer report. Second by: Glen Thomson. CARRIED.

Committee Reports

Ed Chidlaw reported: To expedite the completion of miscellaneous jobs around the facility, an Acceleration Committee has been formed by the **Project Committee**.

MOTION: Glenn Thomson moved we adopt the Facility Project Report as presented by Ed Chidlaw. Second by: Betty Miller. CARRIED.

Museum Remodel report. proposal information was handed to each member, With explanation from Ed Chidlaw.

By consensus a subcommittee of Betty Miller, Carol Weiss, - Museum; Jackie Brooks, - Gift Shop; & K.O. Eckland, - Library-- were appointed to work on the design and layout in the new building. **MOTION:** Betty Miller moved we accept the phasing (drawing) as presented. Second by: Brian Webster. CARRIED.

Water heater/Water softener/Garbage Disposal--REPLACEMENT. Reported by Ed Chidlaw. **MOTION:** Glen moved to reimburse Ed Chidlaw for \$909.48. For the new water heater & softener. Second by: Gary Corippo. CARRIED.

Facility Rental Betty Miller reported the water heater went out while the kitchen was rented to Odette. **MOTION:** Gary moved we give Odette a \$50.00 credit toward the next rental use. Second by: Betty Miller. CARRIED.

Betty reported--1,100 flyers went out through Paso Robles Chamber of Commerce, advertising our facility for rent. We have received several phone calls requesting reservation packets.

MOTION: Gary Corippo moved we offer Main Street our facility for their Awards Banquet as well as for a fund raiser. Second by: Glen Thomson. CARRIED.

Betty Miller will be our representative and attend the **Main Street Down Town Assn.** Monthly meeting in preparation for their Great Americana Festival July 2nd & 3rd. Theme title is "Salute to Veterans". We will provide a fly over July 3rd.

Old Business

G.W. Alarm : Our insurance agent **Brian Webster** recommends we not change the contract with the Alarm company. By Consensus -- we will leave things as they are,-with the addition of Motion Lights on the buildings.

**BRAMAR ASSOCIATES
Insurance Services, Inc.**

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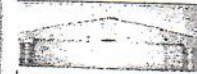
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"The Difficult We Do Daily, The Impossible Is Our Specialty!"

It was determined we will be ordering "Buy A Block" TILES to be installed in the new concrete sections.

Nominating Committee -- consists of Chairman Paul Clark, Obbie Atkinson and Ed Chidlaw. They will meet and a report will be given at the next Board meeting.

Membership Obbie Atkinson reported he plans to meet with graphic designer Jessica Main to finalize Rack cards and new membership flyers.

MOTION: Betty moved we separate the Brochures and Rack Cards from the PIO making it part of Membership. Second by: Tom Weiss. CARRIED.

Gary Corippo presented information regarding availability of several airplanes. More complete cost & information will be brought to next Board meeting.

New Business

Ed Chidlaw reported we have a proposal from Nunno Hanger Construction which includes a "no effort on our part" lease for steady income. This will comply with what the City requires, prior to agreeing on allowing us the use of the additional 80 feet we asked for. **MOTION:** Ed Chidlaw moved we approach the City with this written proposal to see if it is agreeable with them. Second by: Glen Thomson. CARRIED.

MOTION: Gary Corippo moved we accept the Nunno Corporation proposal, with certain amendments, contingent on reaching an agreement with the City of Paso Robles. Second by: Glen Thomson. CARRIED.

The Board approved Jackie Brooks to do research and bring information for having a "Juke Box Jive" fund raiser in October.

By general consensus Gary Corippo was put in charge of having EWM Septic Tank pumped.

MOTION: Ed Chidlaw moved we set up an initial fund of \$500.00 to work on the 1941 Dodge-US Army weapons carrier, in addition to the money already spent. Second by Gary Corippo. CARRIED

Directive from Treasurer, Rosemary-- **All SIGNED-- Credit Card slips-- must be put in the Red/Donation Box** on the wall.

MOTION: Glen Thomson moved he will underwrite the expense of getting the Grumman T2 Buckeye plane here from Jacksonville, Fla.. Second by: Betty Miller. CARRIED

Other Business:

Suggestion: A sign up sheet be brought to the General Meetings so people can volunteer in advance to prepare Saturday Lunches.

Meeting closed at 7:00 p.m.

Submitted by:
Jackie Brooks, Recording Secretary

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Brief Biography of Richard C. Lathrop

Richard C. Lathrop was born in Wauwatosa Wisconsin in 1924. He grew up in Wauwatosa, a suburb of Milwaukee. He graduated from Wauwatosa High School in 1942, and attended the University of Wisconsin briefly before enlisting in the Army Aviation Cadet program.

He graduated from flying training in February 1944, and trained as a B-25 low altitude attack pilot. He served in this capacity with the 345th Bomb Group in the Southwest Pacific Theater in WWII, where he flew two combat tours of duty. Returning to civilian life in 1946 (but as a Captain in the Army Air Force Reserve) he re-entered the University of Wisconsin and earned the BS and MS in electrical engineering and physics, and ultimately a PhD in 1951.

Returning to active duty in the Air Force in 1951, he held several engineering positions, specializing in automatic flight control of aircraft. In 1955, he attended the Air Force Test Pilot School, and then served on the faculty of that school for several years before becoming Commandant of the Air Force Test Pilot School in 1959. He served on the faculty of the Air Force Academy from 1961 through 1965. He served with the US Military Assistance Advisory Group (MAAG) in Pakistan (1965-67) as professor and chairman of the electrical engineering department, Pakistan Air Force College of Engineering. During this period, he also served as instructor pilot in the MAAG C-54 aircraft.

In 1967-68, he served (as a Lt. Col.) a combat tour in VietNam as an AC-47 "Gunship" pilot. He flew 173 night combat missions, using the unique side-firing AC-47 aircraft, which is basically the old DC-3 aircraft adapted into an attack mode. Returning to the United States in 1969, he had several research and development management positions at the Air Force Missile Development Center. After promotion to Colonel and attendance at the Naval War College, he became the Technical Director at the Air Force Flight Test Center, Edwards AFB..

Col. Lathrop retired from the Air Force in 1974, and became the Director of the after-hours engineering masters degree program at Edwards AFB, which was operated by California State University - Fresno. He continued in that role for 15 years, and personally taught many of the courses in that program.

Richard Lathrop now resides in Paso Robles with his wife Lillian.

EWM Docent Schedule

APRIL 2004

Saturday, 3 April
SMITH, 10 - 1pm
SMITH, 1 - 4pm

Sunday, 4 April
SMITH, 12 - 3pm

Saturday, 10 April
DICKEY, 10 - 1pm
HERMANSEN, 1- 4pm

Sunday, 11 April
TOOMEY, ... 12 - 3pm

Saturday, 17 April
BLOOMQUIST, ..10 - 1pm
MINER,1 - 4pm

Sunday, 18 April
BROOKS/HOLZER, ..12- 3pm

Saturday, 24 April
DICKEY,10- 1pm
WEISS,1- 4pm

Sunday, 25 April
CORIPPO,12 - 3pm