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Ret.  
Martin Wright

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Tom Bordonero

## Museum Info

Phone 227-0440

Answered by Machine

www.ewarbirds.org

Phone 238-9317

Can be used to reach personnel at  
Museum on  
Saturday and Sunday Only

### 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 9 Paso Robles, California September 2004

## September Meeting

The September Meeting will be held on Wednesday September 1, 2004 at Thomson Hall with Social Hour beginning at 6:00pm and Dinner at 7:00pm

Chef John and Dedicated Crew will provide us with a delicious roast pork dinner with a special mushroom wine sauce, and all the other trimmings that they do so well.

**Reservations will be necessary, as usual.** Call the Museum at 224-0440 or Betty Miller at 466-1212.

Our speaker for the evening will be Commander Thomas R. Harrington, United States Navy Reserve, a native of Paso Robles, a graduate of Templeton High School, attended Cuesta College and graduated from Cal Poly in San Luis Obispo in 1988 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration. He completed Aviation Officer Candidate School in Pensacola, Florida and Corpus Christi, Texas, received his wings in February 1989 and reported to Helicopter Anti-Submarine Squadron (Light) FORTY-ONE in San Diego for training in the Sikorsky SH-60B Light Airborne Multi-Purpose

System (LAMPS) helicopter. He served in Japan and Desert Storm where he flew 20 missions.

Commander Harrington also served in other capacities as an Assistant Professor at Boston University and MIT in the Naval Science Department. He was recalled to active duty in 2003 after being in the Naval Reserves from 1997 and was immediately deployed to Kuwait and then Iraq during Operation IRAQI FREEDOM.

This is only a part of his biography but I get so wrapped up in some of the experiences of our wonderful speakers that I am accused of giving away too much information, so, come and hear Commander Harrington yourselves and you will be well rewarded!!



**Notes From the Prez...**

Dear Fellow Members, and Friends,

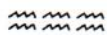
Another month has come and gone. I must say a lot has happened at the Museum during the past 30 days! If you haven't been out for a dinner or to just visit the Museum for a while, you need to come by for a look.

Thomson Hall has a solid wall between the kitchen and the main part of the Hall. The roll-up doors from the unused serving area have been removed (they will be recycled in the Gift Shop addition) and

## 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](mailto: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.

cont'd

replaced with insulation and sheetrock. This will help cut the noise from kitchen cleanup during our programs and allow the speakers to not have to compete with the clatter and chatter. Thanks to the hard work of **Ron Brooks, Ed Chidlaw and Tom Weiss** everything except taping and texturing was completed on the Work Party of August 21<sup>st</sup>.

The trees have been planted in the picnic area to the east of Thomson Hall and new grass is coming up and turning green thanks to **Forrest Johnson** and his Merry Band of Green Thumbers.

The aircraft parking area continues to grow as 11 yards of new concrete was poured, replacing the last of the WW II

asphalt. Again, thanks to **Arnold Hermansen, Bob Kelly, Gary Corippo, Ron Brooks, Tom Weiss, Ed Chidlaw, and Gary Woodell** for making it happen!

While all this has been happening many other things are moving along as well, such as: the F-4 Phantom will soon be finished and moving on the flight line as a proud representative of a historic military aircraft. Aircraft volunteers such as **Fred Hahn, Dave Gieger, and Bob Singleton** under the watchfull guidance of **Al Schade** have made a difference.

Our Vehicle Restoration Crew of **Dave Gieger, John Dolan, John Wittworth and Gary Corippo** are getting the historic vehicles ready to roll, not always an easy job with 60+ year old chassis and engines.

Thanks again to the Lunch Cooks, the Aug 21<sup>st</sup> crew was **Dorothy McBain, Carol Weiss and Betty Miller**.

A reminder we need Lunch Cooks for September 4<sup>th</sup>, 11, 18, and 25<sup>th</sup>! It's not hard, Chef **John Himes** will have the food in the freezer or Fridge and tell you how to prepare it.

The Museum Hangar continues to have new exhibits under the dedicated guidance of **Carol Weiss and Betty Miller**.

The Gift Shop continues to grow and expand with something for everyone. **Jackie Brooks** is always adding new items and the Gift Shop is becoming a First Class Shopping Store for anyone looking for aviation memorabilia.

Our Docents have lost a true leader in **Al Smith**, who is moving to Flagstaff, Arizona. He will be sorely missed here, but his new city will benefit greatly. **Tom Weiss**, one of our dedicated volunteers, has stepped up to the plate to take on the duty of Docent Coordinator. On this note, we still are in desperate need of docents. You don't have to be an aircraft or aviation expert, just be able to read from the handbook, meet and greet the public and smile.

Our Libation Area (the Bar) is sti changing and developing as Libatio Artists, **Rosemary Netto, Cathy Nietz and Bob Miller** explore options to mak your visit more enjoyable.

I know I have probably left out man people who are working hard to make th Museum grow, but I also wish to thanl some of our friends at City Hall, **Jim Heggarty, Gary Nemeth** and Airpor Manager **Roger Oxborrow**, to name a few.

We are always in need of volunteers for all phases of Museum life—cooking painting, building cabinets, sweeping washing windows, working on vehicles aircraft, tanks, or whatever you feel you interest and forte may be. These jobs aren't a permanent thing, but this is a great opportunity to meet some super people and share the satisfaction of watching the Museum become an important part of tourist destinations not only for the City of Paso Robles, but the entire North County.

A few hours of companionship and light work will give you a lifetime of satisfaction! Join us today.

**Chuck Miller**  
President 2004

## Saturday Work Parties Draw Large Numbers

by Betty Miller

The Saturday Work Projects are drawing lots of great helpers who are really making the Museum look ship-shape! On **August 7** the **Super Sprinkler All-Stars** under Project Manager **Forrest Johnson** and with guidance of new County Supervisor **Jim Patterson** laid out a new line and valve box to handle the dry areas around the F-104 Starfighter at the front entrance.

## 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  
467-2158  
Bob Miller  
4341594

### Decorating

Rosemary Netto  
Judy Corippo

### PIO.

Jim Pickens  
783-2334

(e-mail) [jpickens57@yahoo.com](mailto:jpickens57@yahoo.com)

### Photo

Wally Engle  
227-0245

### Site Maintenance

Glen Thomson  
238-4858

### Aircraft Acquisitions

Gary Corippo  
238-2090

There was a lot of digging, mud and good humor, but the results are great! The Super Sprinkler All-Stars included, **Tom Weiss, Bob Kelly, Frank Ragland, Gary Woodell, Dom Peckinpah, Arnold Hermansen, Ron Brooks, Bob Singleton and Ed Chidlaw.**

At the same time there were the "**Vehicle Vanguards**", **John Dolan, John Wittworth and Gary Corippo** who were vanquishing rust and accumulated grime to get our WWII Dodge back together

Not to be outdone, were the "**Fantastic Four**" - **Dave Geiger, Fred Hahn, Connor Rubon and Alex Rubon** working on washing the F-4 Phantom.

The "**Lunch Bunch**", kitchen crew of **Betty Miller, John Himes, Conrad Martin and Alex Rubon** put together a hearty lunch of ham, turkey, Swiss cheese, cheddar cheese and provolone cheese, potato salad, macaroni salad and John's Special Beans.

After Lunch, **Brian Webster, Glen Thomson, Fred Hahn and Arnold Hermansen** put together the new picnic table and six chairs for the back lawn. Once they had completed the formidable task they tested the chairs for comfort and pronounced them to be "perfect".

This was a VERY SUCCESSFUL Saturday and we are grateful to these fine men and women who worked so hard to make your Museum a better place. Please take a moment to add your personal thanks to these fine folks!

**Saturday, August 14** was the "Great Concrete Caper"... thanks to **Ron Brooks, Gary Corippo, Gary Woodell, Bob Kelly, Arnold Hermansen, Tom Weiss, Chuck Miller** and Project Manager **Ed Chidlaw**, for cutting steel rebar, placing, blocking and tying it in place for the next concrete slab pour which will be done by a commercial contractor. For all those who have purchased Name Blocks that were not installed in the last pour, your name blocks will be placed in this section.

The "**Fantastic Four**" working on the F-4 Phantom consisted of a twosome - **Dave Geiger and Frank Ragland**, while "Vehicle Vanguards" **Glen Thomson, Bob Singleton and John Dolan** worked on the Dodge truck.

**Conrad Martin** worked solo to wash and clean up the F-104 Starfighter.

Hot Dogs, Potato Salad and Chips were served by the "**Lunch Bunch**" crew of **Ed Chidlaw and Betty Millers**, to the hungry workers.

Thanks to you all for jobs well done!

## Docent News

As most of you know, our good friend and member, Al Smith, will be moving to Arizona to a new retirement area. As you also know Al has been handling the Docent program for some time and has been doing a great job, often taking several shifts a month when needed because a regular Docent was unavailable. We are very grateful to Al for picking up the pieces of the

Docent program several years ago and making it a system that really worked

After Al retired from the Museum, Jackie Brooks took up the slack scheduling Docents in addition to the half dozen other jobs she handles.

We are delighted to report that Tom Weiss, who, along with Carol, has been a Docent for years, has volunteered to be the new Docent Coordinator. Tom will be the one to call when a Docent cannot make a shift or cannot find anyone to trade with. Tom devotes so much time to the Museum already as a worker and Board member, as does Carol in other capacities, that we are most grateful that he will take this on.

### **NOW!!!**

We are again making a plea for members to step forward and become Docents

We have about 11 active Docents at this point. In a four week month we need 12. In a 5 week month we need 15. We have two, three hour shifts on Saturdays and one 3 hour shift on Sunday afternoon.

Of the 11, we have two ladies who work together on a Sunday because we don't often have a work crew on that day and we don't want the ladies to be working alone. We also have a husband and wife couple who work together

At this point it is obvious that there are those who are doing double duty. We have Board members as Docents and many others who work on other projects

who also take on Docent duties, some of whom are out here almost every day and definitely on weekends, working their buns off doing all the grunt work that is required to make the Museum work.

In the near future, when the new additions are built and the Gift Shop is moved out of the Museum proper, we will need people to staff the shop as well as the others as Docents. Shop people can't be running into the hangar from the front shop and Docents can't be expected to handle the gift shop on top of their regular duties.

It seems incredible to me that out of approximately 150 members we can't seem to get five or six more members to devote one 3 hour shift a **month** either on a Saturday morning or afternoon or a Sunday afternoon.

This is really a fun job. You meet a lot of great people and perform a valuable service to the Museum.

On Saturdays especially there are all kinds of activities going on and lots of members in and out, working on projects, who can be of help if necessary

One does NOT have to be an aviation buff to be a docent. We have a big "Docent Book" with all the information one would need to answer most questions from aircraft to history and other facts. You just have to be there to watch over things and take care of those who would like to purchase items from the Gift Shop.

Simple short classes are given for new Docents to familiarize them

with what is necessary so there is no reason to be nervous about meeting the public or handling the duties.

There is a signup sheet in Thomson Hall listing the shifts. Please take a look at it and try to think about picking a shift that you're comfortable with and give us a hand..

You'll be glad you did.

### **Thanks! To our August Dinner Meeting Helpers**

Doug Miner for serving ice cream-  
Ginger Cromwell for cutting cake-  
And ALL who helped deliver cake to the tables.

Thank you!  
Jackie Brooks



### **Letters to the Editor**

I have heard some comments attributed to some of our Museum members that are disturbing to me personally. I hope I can address them and help answer them in a satisfactory manner.

Apparently some Museum members feel that they don't want to have to "do scut work" such as weeding, sweeping, and cleaning because they have "those jobs to do at home" and "joined the Museum to work on airplanes".

Well, **Al Schade** always has aircraft restoration tasks and would love to have you report for these tasks any Saturday by 9:00 am. Call him at 927-8303 and find out what projects you can help with!

Yes, we are primarily an aviation-based museum, **BUT** we also have memorabilia that represents an important part of the lives of not only the Air Crews that flew

and worked on the aircraft, but also the engineers, draftsmen, assemblers, painters, and instructors as well. Airplanes helped win the conflicts that ensure freedom, but we also honor those who slogged through the freezing snow of Russia and Korea. Those who marched through the steamy jungles of places like Corrigador, Guam, Saipan, Burma, New Guinea, Iwo Jima, or the Central Highlands of Vietnam. The brave men and women that battled the heat and choking dust of Kuwait and Iraq during Desert Storm and the current war in Iraq, have items that represent their sacrifice as well. We cannot overlook the ships and carriers that move the troops and aircraft, or the subs that run silent and deep. The men and women of the Coast Guard continue to patrol our coasts, lakes and rivers.

Our Museum houses these collections and memories. Unfortunately, floors don't sweep and vacuum themselves. Windows and display cases don't wash and dust themselves and weeds persist in coming up in our planters. Look around at your facilities. *Someone* is doing the "scut work". Unfortunately it is usually the same folks whose names you see wearing so many different hats in your newsletters.

These dedicated people are your fellow members. They don't do the "scut work" for glory and seeing their names in bold type! They do it because they have pride in the Estrella Warbird Museum as a place to honor our men and women who protect our freedoms. Please step forward and offer to lend a much needed hand. If you have physical limitations (as most of us do) we will find a task for you that will not cause overexertion or stress that still needs to be done. It could be filing, folding or sorting in the air conditioned Thomson Hall. It might be something you can do at home in an hour or two. It may only need your attention twice a year, but it can really help keep the Museum going.

Aircraft and Aviation are magical and awe inspiring, but we need **YOUR** help to continue to maintain and restore things that are a part of the **TOTAL PACKAGE**.

If you feel that support work is not something you wish to do, perhaps you might consider an financial donation in addition to your annual dues. This would give the Museum funds which would be needed to keep the facility running for your use and enjoyment if volunteers cannot be found.

Your thoughts and comments are always welcome, and I would be happy to talk to you about any concerns you might have. Give me a call at 466-1212. I am usually available from 6pm to 11 pm, 7 days a week and I always check my messages. And yes, your Board Members clean toilets, do plumbing tasks, and pull weeds. They have never asked for help on something they wouldn't do themselves.

Betty Miller  
Museum Member, 1997 to the present

### Calendar of Events

#### **A Listing of Meetings and Events of Interest to Museum Members and Airport Supporters**

#### Meetings

Estrella Warbird Museum monthly Dinner Meeting  
1st Wednesday of every month.

Estrella Warbird Museum monthly Board of Directors Meeting  
3rd Wednesday of each month.  
Open to all members

Airport Advisory Committee Meetings  
4th Thursday of each month.

Paso Robles City Council Meetings  
1st and 3rd Tuesday of each month.

Experimental Aircraft Association (EAA) Chapter 465 Meetings  
1st Thursday of each month.

### Events

Main Street Association Installation Meeting

September 13 04

Will need volunteers for this affair.

Mercedes Benz Car Club, tour and lunch.

September 18, 04.

We will cater ourselves and will need volunteers for various jobs.

(Museum Member Volunteers are asked to bring their own lunches on the days that the Museum is rented out and eat in the Museum or outside so that those leasing the facility can prepare for the party and decorate the dining room for their own use.)

### Docent Schedule September 2004

Saturday Sept. 4  
Ruth Dickey 10am - 1pm  
Dick Bloomquist 1pm - 4pm

Sunday Sept. 5  
Jackie Brooks 12n - 3pm  
Norma Holzer " "

Saturday Sept. 11  
?? OPEN 10am - 1pm  
?? OPEN 1pm - 4pm

Sunday Sept. 12  
Ray Passon 12n - 3pm

Saturday Sept. 18  
Doug Miner 10am - 1pm  
Ruth Dickey 1pm - 4pm

Sunday Sept. 19  
Gary Corippo 12n - 3pm

Saturday Sept. 25  
Tom Weiss 10am - 1pm  
Bruce Toomey 1pm - 4pm

Sunday Sept. 26  
Arnold Hermansen 12n - 3pm

Estrella Wardbird Museum  
Minutes of Board Meeting

August 18, 2004

Meeting opened at 5:00 p.m. by President Chuck Miller. Others Directors present were: O. Atkinson, R. Brooks, J. Brooks, E. Chidlaw, G. Corippo, J. Cromwell, F. Hahn, D. Highland, B. Miller, R. Netto, A. Schade, G. Thomson, B. Webster, T. Weiss. Guests John Graves; Gary Nemeth; Jim Haggarty, were welcomed.

**Minutes:** **MOTION:** Glen Thomson moved to approve the minutes received on e-mail, as corrected, for July 21, 2004. Second by: Gary Corippo. CARRIED.

**Treasurer Report:** was handed out and reviewed.

**MOTION:** John Cromwell moved to accept the Treasurer Report. Second by: Betty Miller. CARRIED

#### COMMITTEE REPORTS

**Docent** Jackie Brooks reported WE NEED DOCENTS! We have several vacant spots in October. Gary Corippo and Jackie Brooks will bring the information for members to sign up, at the Dinner meeting.

*Tom Weiss* volunteered to be the Docent Coordinator. He will be the contact for Docent Calendar changes.

#### Facility Report

Ed Chidlaw says a big THANK YOU to the groups of people who have been coming out and working the last few Saturdays. Our facility is really looking good. 1). Fence "slats" and decorative rock are being donated for the back "patio" fence area. 2). Picnic area cover is being worked on. **MOTION:** Gary Corippo moved we approve up to \$2500 to be spent on building overhead in BBQ area by the kitchen. Second by: Al Schade. CARRIED.

**Facility Rental** reported by Betty Miller Main Street- Sept 13. Mercedes Benz Car Club is Sept. 18. We will prepare and charge the Club for lunch. Insurance requirements are still keeping other people from renting the facility.

#### Membership

Obbie Atkinson reported our membership income is holding about the same.

**Restoration:** Al Schade reported the F-4 is nearly ready to be painted on the underside then moved to another position. The Corsair is next in line for painting. Another crew is continuing to work on the T-34 at the same time.

Gary Corippo reported we need to establish a "Save-A-Cat" Fund Raiser, to help cover the \$10,000 cost to bring an F-14B from the Navel Museum in Florida. Also a recap was given on the disposition of vehicles we no longer use.

Glen Thomson reported the CDF at McClellan AFB, has offered us surplus aircraft parts.

#### OLD BUSINESS

**Advertising Budget:** Obbie Atkinson reported for the Committee which included-- Bob Brown; Rosemary Netto and substitute Betty Miller. **MOTION:** Obbie Atkinson moved we budget up to \$500. per month for 6 months, under the supervision of our PIO, for Advertising and Publicity. Second by: Betty Miller. CARRIED.

#### Building Expansion

Chuck Miller & Gary Corippo will get a firm bid from Nurmo to include the cost for engineering.

#### NEW BUSINESS

Mr. John Graves, President of Greater California Financial Services. Offered to donate to the museum, his BD-5 aircraft.

**MOTION:** Al Schade moved we accept the BD-5 aircraft donation. Second by: Ed Chidlaw. CARRIED

**MOTION:** Ed Chidlaw moved we table discussion for placement of the BD-5 until another board meeting. Second by: John Cromwell. CARRIED

It was recommended we make contact with the Paso Robles VFW and American Legion, to discuss possible coordination between the three organizations.

Meeting adjourned at 6:35 p.m., until Wednesday September 15, 2004, 5:00 pm

Submitted by, Jackie Brooks  
Recording Secretary

2nd Annual

Saturday, September 11th

Paso Robles

# Airport Day 2004

## Aviation Expo

At the Paso Robles Airport.

Bring the  
entire family!



Free admission  
and parking!

Pre-airshow activities start at 9:00am.

- \* **Celebrate Aviation!** — Come see both model and full-size aircraft flight demonstrations and static displays.
- \* **Helicopter Flying** — Watch as aerobatic model helicopters, pop-pop fly uside down and do things you don't know a helicopter could do!
- \* **Wild Wings Air Shows!** — See ace pilot, Tom Applegate, perform high-energy aerobatics in his Christen Eagle bi-plane.
- \* **High Performance Jets** — Witness real turbine-powered model jets slicing through the sky at over 200 MPH!
- \* **Electric Powered Flight** — The fastest growing aspect of the R/C hobby, these models exhibit incredible performance using the latest battery and motor technology.
- \* **Hands-on Flying Opportunities** — Try flying an R/C airplane with one of our club instructors - **FREE!**
- \* **Young Eagles Flights** — If you are between the ages of 8-17 take a flight in a private airplane with a qualified EAA pilot - **FREE!**
- \* **Aerobatics** — Watch as some of the nations top aerobatic pilots fly 40% scale models through amazing, aerobatic and freestyle maneuvers choreographed to music.
- \* **Full-Size Flight Demos** — See full-size aerobatic flying and military fighter demos (as available).
- \* **Numerous Raffle Prizes** — Win fabulous prizes raffle drawings held through-out the day.
- \* **Full-Scale Static Displays** — Military War Birds, emergency services aircraft, ultralights, home-built experimental aircraft, corporate jets and more on display.
- \* **Food and Refreshments** — BBQ and soft drinks by the Paso Robles Morning Kiwanis Club.

Show concludes at 3:30pm.

Air Show sponsored by the North County Cloud Clippers R/C Club.

805-237-0915 / [www.cloudclippers.org](http://www.cloudclippers.org)  
Schedule and events subject to change

## 103 Year Old WW II Vet Donates Uniform

Thanks to EWM Member Dick Kinsey, the Museum recently was given a complete WW II US Army uniform from 103 year old William L. Righetti of San Luis Obispo. Although stooped with age, William Righetti is bright of eye and mind, and a total delight to visit with. Since Mr. Righetti is planning on moving into a retirement community, he has decided to donate his US Army memorabilia to the Museum.

Mr. Righetti brought his uniform to the Museum and Artifact Coordinator Betty Miller placed it on one of our manikins and took a picture of Mr. Righetti next to it.

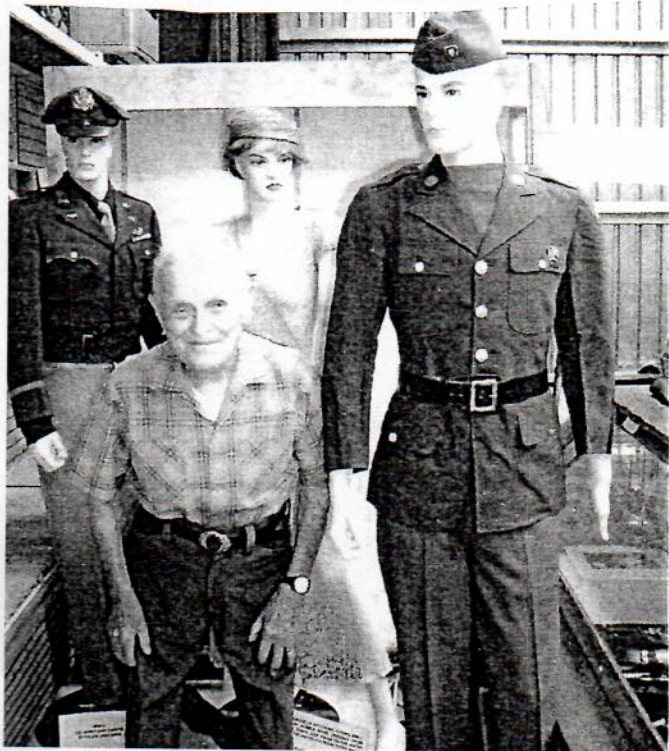
William Righetti was born on a dairy farm on San Bernardo Creek (east of Highway 1, near Morro Bay) in 1901. His father later purchased a dairy in Cayucos, where William went to Cayucos Elementary School. As a youth he went to work for Harmony Dairy in Harmony, CA. At the age of 16 Righetti was driving a Ford Model T from Harmony to San Luis Obispo, a drive that took up to three hours each way. Very familiar with the workings of the Model T, Mr. Righetti was delighted to show how everything worked on the Museum's Model T, and was even able to recall the exact tire size and pressure for the vehicle.

As an adult, Righetti worked for Harmony Dairy in many aspects of the dairy operations. After Pearl Harbor in December of 1941, Righetti went to Camp San Luis Obispo and enlisted in the US Army at the age of 41!

Following Basic Training at Fort Ord, Righetti was assigned to the Engineer Corps and sent to an Engineer Camouflage Unit in Needles where he worked on helping to develop methods to disguise tanks and aircraft. This was necessary to protect our equipment in the deserts of North Africa where General George Patton was leading US forces against Rommel.

Righetti says his most memorable experiences were dealing with the sidewinders (rattlesnakes) in the desert! A far cry from the ocean kissed hills of Cayucos.

In 1943, the Army allowed servicemen who were over 40 years of age to seek a discharge, and Righetti decided he could be of more use going back into the dairy field to free up younger men for active duty. Upon his honorable discharge, Righetti was hired by Golden State Creamery in San Francisco where he worked for 20 years. It was while he lived in San Francisco that he met his wife of 51 years, Maria, a former opera singer. Maria passed away in 1998.







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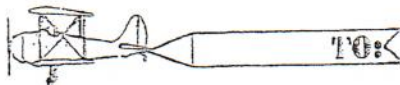


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