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### Museum Info

Phone: 805-227-0440 (Voice Mail)

Sat & Sun Phone 238-9317

website: [www.ewarbirds.org](http://www.ewarbirds.org)

### Museum Hours

**Saturday 10 am to 4 pm**

**Sunday 12 noon to 3 pm**

### Group Tours - By Appointment

(Call 805-466-1212)

# THE ESTRELLA WARBIRD MUSEUM NEWSLETTER



Published by the Estrella Warbird Museum, Inc.

Volume XVI Number 3 Paso Robles, California ~ March 2005



## March Meeting

The March Dinner Meeting will be held on Wednesday ~~January 5,~~ <sup>MAR 2</sup> 2005 at Thomson Hall with Social Hour beginning at 6:00 pm and Dinner at 7:00 pm.

### Menu

Corned Beef & Cabbage

Seasonal Vegetable

Green Salad

Rolls

Dessert

Coffee

**\$10.00 per person**

**Reservations Please**

**466-1212**

### Program

Our program will be given by Lt. Col. John A. Watt, USAF, Retired. Lt. Col. Watt was with the 446th Bombardment Group flying B-24's with the Eighth Air Force during WW II and completed 29 combat missions with the unit during that period, before he was taken as a German Prisoner of War.

Watt's presentation will cover personal impressions of how young American Airmen coped with the alien environment of the German POW camps and covers the experiences of almost 6,000 allied POW's during an 80 day forced march in advance of the Russian offensive during 1944-45.

Lt. Col. Watt retired after 26 years of service in the US Air Force. Watt completed 26 missions flying B-29's against Korean War targets in 1953-54. In 1955 he was retrained as a triple rated Navigator and was assigned as commander of small SAC radar units in support of Cold War air training objectives. In 1960 he was assigned to missile operations in the Titan I program at Mountain Home, Idaho and Vandenberg Air Force Base. Watt retired in 1967 and became active in the business communities of Santa Barbara and Santa Maria until he retired to Heritage Ranch in 1985.

## Committee Chairpersons

### Aircraft Acquisitions

Gary Corippo - 238-2090

### City Liaison

Chuck Miller - 466-1212

### Decorating

Judy Corippo - 238-2090

Rosemary Netto - 467-3521

### Dinners

John Himes - 466-6680

### Facility Rental

Betty Miller - 466-1212

### Gift Shop

Jackie Brooks - 462-8141

### Ground Equipment

Dave Geiger - 238-1598

### Grounds

John Kendall - 239-8029

Ron Thompson - 237-2904

### Insurance

Brian Webster - 237-0666

Ian Webster - 237-0666

### Membership

Obbie Atkinson - 238-9212

### Newsletter

Dick Reddick - 238-2316

### Photographer

Wally Engle - 227-0245

### Public Information Officer

Dick Reddick - 238-2316

### Program

George Marrett - 466-7640

### Refreshments

Rosemary Netto - 467-3521

Cathy Neitz - 467-2158

### Site Maintenance

Glen Thomson - 238-4858

## A Note From the Prez....

I sure hope the sun is shining when you read this! I know I mentioned that we had a water shortage, -- I think we can stop hoping for more water, we have certainly received more than our share!

We have some exciting news. Many of you know that we have been trying to obtain some more land to the east of the Restoration Hangar so that we can erect a much needed building for vehicle storage and a place to store a lot of equipment that we want to use but don't have room for in the Restoration Hangar. On the 16th of February, the City of Paso Robles gave us Draft Amendment #5 to our existing lease. This will enable us to gain some land to the east and unless something unforeseen develops we hope to have the amendment approved by the City Council in March.

We have a committee working on amending our development plan for the Museum so that we can apply for a building permit for both the new Vehicle Storage unit *and* the new proposed Museum building which will be built on the west side of our property, north of Thomson Hall.

We now have a Fund Raising Committee consisting of Chairman **Gar Corippo**, and Committee members **Obbie Atkinson, Paul Clark, Betty Miller** and **John Whitworth**. Our goal is to raise \$500,000.00 for the proposed new Museum building and the Vehicle Storage building so that we can continue to expand. We are on our way to becoming the best Fly & Drive In Aviation Museum in the central coast.

If any of you can think of ways for us to raise this money or have any recommendations for people and businesses to contact, please contact any member of the Fund Raising Committee or any member of the Board of Directors.

Our "Unsung Hero" for March is **Bruce Toomey**. Bruce is a founding member of EWM and has been a tireless worker towards making the Museum a better place. Bruce has been our Newsletter Editor for over 10 years, set up security for our Air Shows, organized all the set-up and tear down for the shows, hauled trash, picked up aircraft parts, been a docent, helped with group tours, and just stepped in to help whenever and wherever he was needed. Bruce has been my role model as well. Thank you Bruce!



## Goodby (Again)....

by Bruce Toomey

In 1989, a couple of characters I knew, named Gary Corippo and Glen Thomson, sent out an announcement around the airport that a Squadron of the Confederate Air Force (now Commemorative Air Force) was going to be formed in Paso Robles, I was an early applicant and am pleased to say that I was one of the charter members. A few weeks went by after forming the Squadron and we were somewhat disorganized because there was not much communication between the new members. I suggested to Gary and Glen that a little bulletin or newsletter might be a good idea to keep the troops informed. Characteristically, they both looked at each other and grinned at me and I was instantly appointed to handle the job.

For twelve or thirteen years I handled this fun chore until I decided to give it up and do some traveling. Naturally I dumped the job on Betty Miller (Mrs. Do-Everything) since no one offered to pick up the slack. As it turned out, our travel plans never materialized so we never really did get going. After letting Betty suffer for a few months, I told her I would take on the job again.

For over sixteen years this has been a real labor of love. It was a way that I could contribute to the Squadron, and later the Museum, since I couldn't be of much help in aircraft restoration and my wife says I am a lousy cook! One of the best aspects of the job was keeping track of the membership because of the mailing labels I needed. In this way I was able to get to know everyone and become familiar with a large number of great local people. (Label making is now handled by Obbie's assistant membership volunteer, Pam Morrison, bless her heart!!)

I regret to say that recent health concerns are affecting both Joan and myself so I have once again asked to be relieved of duty. (Guess who picked up the slack??-Yup, Betty) I have enjoyed my associations much more than I can say with some of the greatest people I have ever known, and I am extremely proud to be able to count a number of them among the best and most loyal friends I have ever had.

The greatest news is that our own Dick Reddick, former newspaper owner and professional journalist, has volunteered to take on the newsletter! In addition, Dick has offered to handle the PIO work as well!! This should be a real relief for all of you who have been stuck with my same old format and the same old complaints and begging for volunteers.

I will see you all at the meetings and as a Docent in the Museum. ONE LAST SHOT....We continue to need DOCENTS! Call Tom Weiss (239-2637) and volunteer for a fun job that takes a whole three to six hours a month!!

**Bruce**



## The Estrella Squadron

### Newsletter

This newsletter is published monthly as an unofficial and voluntary contribution. Contents and opinions, other than by-line columns are the sole responsibility of the Acting Editor, Betty Miller, 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  
4251 Dry Creek Road  
Paso Robles, CA 93446  
or by email to  
ewarbirds@hotmail.com

## *Special Thanks To....*

*Pete Johnston* and his helpful crew who donate the entire cost of mailing the newsletters as well as the final hand folding, sealing and addressing our newsletters.



## Sale of Museum Piano

### Brings in Funds for Museum Building Fund



Member Gary Woodall and his wife donated a lovely Wurlitzer spinet piano to the Museum in 2004. Since member Dorothy McBain had previously donated a Wurlitzer spinet piano in 2000, the Museum suddenly had two spinet pianos on site. While this came in handy when we had the F-14 Arrival Ceremony in December, we really did not need two pianos. The Woodall piano was the better of the two and can be closed up to protect the keyboard from dust and damage. Dorothy gave her permission to sell her piano and asked that the funds go towards the Building Fund for the New Museum Building. We are happy to report that we sold the piano to a budding artist and now have added \$500.00 to the Museum Building Fund! Thank you Dorothy and Gary and Fran!

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THE FEELING IS GENUINE

## Gift Shop News

### Tees on sale

Jackie Brooks reports that she has "Save A Cat" F-14 tee shirts left and is selling them for \$20.00 each or two for \$35.00. We still have some expenses that need to be taken care of and your purchase of a couple of tees would really help!

**New Books for Sale** - come in and take a look, your visit will be worthwhile.

### Gift Shop Helpers Needed

Being a Docent not your style? Well Jackie needs some folks to just handle sales in the Gift Shop. Call her at 462-8141 for more info

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### Thanks to the Sticker Brigade!

Jackie Brooks says, "THANK YOU" to the following ladies who worked on the "Sticker Brigade":

**Doris Atkinson, Betty Gabele, Linda Hermansen, Betsy Thomson and Carol Weiss...** and a special thanks to "**Captain Ron Brooks**" for doing the counting and hauling of heavy boxes. Thanks to these folks our EWM Brochures now include our website address.

## 1902 Flying Machine

(from an article by Phil Dirkx)

Elmer Bollinger came to Paso Robles from the Santa Clara Valley in 1901. He had hoped to get a job on a steam-powered threshing machine, but the job was gone by the time his train arrived and he became a helper in W.C. Henderson's blacksmith shop for \$5.00 a week. At this period in American history many tinkers were trying to make automobiles. Ford Motor Co. was founded two years later in 1903.

Mr. Henderson put Mr. Bollinger to work at making a horseless carriage. It was the first in Paso Robles and was powered by a steam engine. Unfortunately the boiler wasn't adequate and the steam car would run for half a block and then run out of steam. They ended up junking it, and Bollinger returned to Santa Clara where he built two gasoline-powered cars. His first one ran, but poorly. The second ran OK and Bollinger drove it to Paso Robles. While Bollinger was in Santa Clara, a priest at the Santa Clara Mission had been trying to build an airplane, but crashed it and killed the priest. Mr. Henderson told Bollinger that a craft with revolving blades might work so Bollinger made his flying machine as a working model of that idea.

The Flying Machine had a little steam engine, but like the steam car it ran out of steam before it went far. Bollinger told the late Don McMillan during an oral history interview for the Pioneer Museum, that he had received a patent on his flying machine before the Wright brothers made their 1903 flight. The flying machine has 15 cloth-covered, paddle-shaped blades designed to rotate like propellers. A pulley attached to the steam engine causes the blades to turn. The machine is over 3 feet long, with gears, shafts, a bicycle chain and a small connecting rod and sits in a rather spindly metal frame. Elmer Bollinger told Phil Dirkx that the machine actually did lift off the ground, but did not get very high and didn't have enough steam to stay up long.

Mr. Bollinger became a leading citizen in Paso Robles. He was named Postmaster in 1935 and held that position for 15 years.

Elmer Bollinger continued to tinker with inventions such as his flying machine until he passed away in 1971 at the age of 92.

The Estrella Warbird Museum will restore the unique craft and then have it on display for 18 months before it goes back "home" to the Pioneer Museum.

Raindrops falling on  
your head? Call



### **K. Page Roofing**

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### **Flash from the Artifact Coordinators....**

Carol Weiss and Betty Miller, our two Artifact Coordinators have asked once again that if you have something to donate or loan to the Museum, PLEASE call either one of them to offer your item. Don't just drop it off by the door or just hand it to a Docent without getting a "Proffer of Gift" (Donated item) or a "Loan Form" (Loan only) filled out and turned in. Also, the coordinators need to look at your item to be sure we don't already have five of them in storage.

Also, if you have loaned an item to the Museum, please do not remove it from its display (for any reason) without first calling Betty (466-1212) or Carol (239-2637). We have had some things leave and it causes major headache and concern to those two who have been entrusted for its care.

### **Museum Musings....**

**Betty Miller**

I am excited to announce a new partnership has been formed between the Estrella Warbird Museum, Pioneer Museum, Camp Roberts Museum, Paso Robles Historical Society, and the Templeton Historical Museum. We are calling ourselves the North County Historical Museums.

We all have the common goals of preserving historical artifacts and written memorabilia for our future generations. Since all of us are limited on available funding and all of us depend on donations to stay afloat, we have not been able to afford much media advertising to let locals and visitors know about us. By working together we hope to be able to have large ads periodically and also be able to get some discounts on much needed items such as manikins, display items, etc. We will also be sharing information about the history of North San Luis Obispo County.

Watch for information on other North County Historical Museums in our newsletters.

The Pioneer Museum has loaned a 1902 "Flying Machine" to the Estrella Warbird Museum. Ron Brooks and Al Schade will be working to restore this unique item.

### **El Paso de Robles Area Pioneer Museum**

*Preserving Yesterday  
for Tomorrow*



2010 Riverside Ave.  
Paso Robles, CA 93446

(805) 239-4556

**Hours:**  
Thursday through Sunday  
1:00 to 4:00 p.m.

### **Visit Other North County Historical Museums**

#### **Camp Roberts Museum**

Bldg 114 at Camp Roberts  
Open Thursday & Saturday  
9:00 am to 4:00 pm (Free)  
Phone: 238-3100 x 68288

#### **Rios Caledonia Adobe**

(Near Mission San Miguel)  
Open Fri., Sat., Sun.  
11:00 am to 4:00 pm (Free)  
467-3357

#### **Templeton Historical Museum**

Main Street, Templeton  
Call for times - 434-0190

#### **Paso Robles Historical Soc.**

At Pioneer Museum  
Call for times - 238-4996

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Their ads help pay for the printing of this newsletter. Let them know that you heard about them from seeing their ad in your Estrella Warbird Museum Newsletter!

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Can you identify this aircraft??? Call Betty at 466-1212 to identify  
**February Winners! 1. Kenny Finch 2. Mathew Grant 3. Jim Cromwell**  
The February Mystery Aircraft was a Loening C-2H Amphibian, shown on the turntable at  
Hamilton Cove, Catalina Island, c. 1929-31

**Estrella Warbird Museum, Inc.**  
4251-A Dry Creek Road  
Paso Robles, CA 93446



**TO:**  
Netto, Rosemary  
998 River Rd.  
San Miguel, CA 93451



**Estrella Wardbird Museum  
Minutes of Board Meeting  
Wednesday -- February 16, 2005 -- 5 p.m.  
Thomson Hall**

Meeting opened at 5:05 pm. By President Chuck Miller.  
Other directors present included: O. Atkinson; R. & J. Brooks; P. Clark; G. Corippo; J. Cromwell; D. Highland; B. Miller; R. Netto; A. Schade; George Taylor; G. Thomson; T. Weiss; John Whitworth. Advisory Board: Mac Gleim. Guests: Carol Weiss and Betsy Thomson.

**MOTION:** Glen Thomson moved we accept the Minutes of January 19, 2005, as received on e-mail, to include the correction "Kitchen FIRE CERTIFICATION is not complete". Second by Gary Corippo. **CARRIED.**

**MOTION:** Betty Miller moved to accept the Treasurer report as presented and reviewed. Second: Dave Highland. **CARRIED.**

**COMMITTEE Reports:**

Lease Agreement -- Chuck Miller provided the Board with copies of our proposed property lease with the City of Paso Robles. Discussion followed.

**MOTION:** Glen Thomson moved we authorize Chuck Miller to tell the City we accept the Lease Agreement, amendment #5. Chuck Miller will sign and return the document to the City. Second by Betty Miller. **CARRIED.**

Building Committee -- A copy of comparison building contractor figures was provided for all board members by Chairperson, Betty Miller. Discussion followed.

**MOTION:** Al Schade moved we accept Nunno Corp. as our building contractor for the New Museum. Second by Paul Clark. **CARRIED.**

Restoration Al Schade reported the A7 is nearly complete. Al will go to Shepard AFB, - near Dallas, Texas on February 23 to pick up the T-37.

Safety Chairman John Cromwell reported the Fire Certification work has been completed, and Fire Inspector approved.

Tours Betty Miller received a donation of \$70.00 recently, from Brownie Troop #673, to be used for the new museum fund.

**EWM Members** can sign up to help with other up-coming Tours beginning in March with 3 kindergarten groups. Tues. 3/22--Thurs. 3/24 and Fri-3/25. See the "**Events**" calendar posted across from the Bar in the Dining Hall.

**OR-**You may phone **Betty at 466-1212.**

**MOTION:** Gary Corippo moved we purchase 2 Military vehicles from the Tom Cameron family for \$1,100.00. Second by Tom Weiss. **CARRIED.**

Gary reported the Marine League donated \$150. to the museum. Robert Prophet gave an additional personal matching donation of \$200.00

Gary also reported it will be our responsibility to pick up the seats and instruments for the F-14 when Lemoore notifies us they are there.

**MOTION:** Glen Thomson moved we purchase 2 fuel tanks and some aircraft seats, for a total of \$300.00. Second by: Al Schade. CARRIED.

#### **Old Business**

Paul Clark will further research the Insurance question for the Museum responsibility regarding flyable airplanes, and report next meeting.

**MOTION:** Gary Corippo moved we accept the offer from John & Marcia Moore, of the 1979 Mercedes Benz automobile, to be used as a fund raiser. Second by Paul Clark CARRIED

Our Building Fund Raising goal is \$500,000. The following people were appointed to the serve on this committee: Obbie Atkinson; Paul Clark; Betty Miller; John Whitworth and Gary Corippo, Chairman, .

Treasurer Rosemary Netto reported our application for a corporate Credit Card has been approved.

George Taylor reported on the Safety updates that have been put in place. Also an Emergency contact form for each person working with the Museum needs to be on file.

#### **New Business**

**MOTION:** Obbie Atkinson moved we contact K.O. Eckland to draw the colored artist renderings of the proposed Museum. These will be used for our fund raising efforts. Second by Betty Miller. CARRIED.

Al Schade remarked on the item we have on loan from the Pioneer Museum,- a Home Made "Flying Machine" of the 1902 vintage. Ron Brooks & Al Schade are in charge of this restoration.

Treasurer Rosemary noted we have received a donation of \$100.00 to be used for the restoration of this item, from member Neil Menard.

Meeting adjourned at 6:45 p.m. p.m., to take Board of Director pictures.

**Reconvene March 16, 2005 at 5 p.m.**

Submitted by,  
Jackie Brooks  
Recording Secretary