

Estrella Warbird Museum Newsletter -- May 2005

Published by Estrella Warbird Museum, Inc. -- Museum Hrs: Sat 10 - 4, Sun 12 - 3
4251-A Dry Creek Road, Paso Robles, CA 93446 -- Website: <www.ewarbirds.org>

"Missing You" -- WWII Letters

Speaker for EWM meeting May 4, 2005

[Social Hour @ 6 p.m. -- Dinner @ 7 p.m.]

Our speaker will be Miss Shanna Crawford. She is in the 8th grade and lives in Atascadero. For her class WWII history project she constructed a presentation board with copies of letters sent to service men during the war. The board will be on display at our museum and she will talk about why and how it was built.



Program Chairman -- George J. Marrett --
jmarrett@tsn.net

May 4th Dinner Menu

May will feature a Cinco de Mayo celebration at the museum. We will serve a *Mexican Fiesta* dinner which will include rice and beans and several specialty items.

Aye amigas y amigos! See you at Thomson Hall
6 p.m. on Wednesday evening?

Reservations please: 466-1212 or 227-0440

A Note from the Prez...

April has been a great month and a lot has been happening at the Museum. Our visitors, both individuals and groups have set a record! On the 8th of April Guaranty RV Club from Junction City, Oregon showed up with 110 adults in two big tour busses for a tour of the Museum in the morning. In the afternoon the Tri-County Airstream Club arrived with 50 adults. On Saturday morning, April 23rd, the Astin Martin Car Club with 40 members came for a tour, followed in the afternoon by 120 adults in 65 vintage Porsches from Northern, Central and Southern California.

Sunday, April 24 we had 27 cadets from the Grizzly Academy of Camp San Luis to put in 6 hours of Community Service work. Dave Highland, Rob Kinnear and Gary Corippo each took a group and washed aircraft, cleaned up our revetment area to the north, weeded the sides of our taxiway, and cleaned up our landscaping. George Taylor provided an excellent lunch for our workers. As the Grizzlies were lined up in formation to depart, the San Luis Obispo Camera Club came to take a tour and get lots of shots of everything from the rivets on the F-4 Phantom to "Tail Wind," the Museum's cat. All told we have had over 500 visitors just in April!

I feel that we are really getting on the map as a destination attraction and many thanks need to be directed to our Tour Specialists Carol Weiss, Rob Kinnear, Gary Corippo, Ron and Jackie Brooks, and Betty Miller as well as our great Docent Team that cover the regular Saturday and Sunday visitors.

My "UNsung HERO" for May is John Himes. John is our illustrious leader of the Kitchen Krew and plans all the menus as well as doing the cooking for the Monthly Dinner Meetings. John is always there when you need him and even does double duty by helping prepare lunch for the Saturday Work Crews.

Prez Sez...

John makes sure that we always have plenty of variety and this really helps contribute to our membership growth. Thank you John!

Mark your calendars for the upcoming visit of the Collings Foundation's B-17 "Flying Fortress" and B-24 "Liberator" on Wednesday, May 11, Thursday, May 12 and Friday, May 13th. The aircraft will be arriving at 3 pm on Wed and we will need volunteers to work the Gift Shop and be on hand as Docents from 3 pm to 6:30 pm Wednesday, 9 am to 6:30 pm Thursday and from 9 am to 1 pm on Friday. Call Jackie if you can man the Gift Shop, and Tom Weiss if you can be a Docent. If you would like to fly in either aircraft for a 30 minute flight [the cost is a \$400.00 donation].

To tour BOTH aircraft there is an \$8.00 donation. Reservations are a must for the flights. Call me at 466-1212 for more info. May marks the month we have the annual election of members of the Board and election of Officers. We have 6 incumbents plus one open slot. If you or someone you know would like to be considered please let Obbie Atkinson, Paul Clark or myself know before Wednesday, May 18th.

Chuck Miller

Minutes of Board Meetings

Current board minutes can be found on the bulletin board in the Meeting Hall across from the bar. If anyone wishes to have a copy emailed to them, have them call Jackie Brooks, Secretary, at 462-8141.

Space allowing, a brief recap may be included in this issue.

NCHC (North County Historical Coop)
"Museum Musings..."

First Annual Treasure Hunt at the 7 North County Historical Museums and Historical Societies!

Get a copy of the Paso Robles Magazine for May, find the 3/4 page "ad" and clip the entry form to enter.

Visit all seven of the North County's Museums:
1) Estrella Warbird Museum, 2) Atascadero Historical Society, 3) El Paso de Robles Historical Society/Museum, 4) Pioneer Museum, 5) Camp Roberts Museum, 6) Rios Caledonia Adobe and 7) Templeton Historical Museum.

[It's an effort to stimulate visits from locals to all our museums...]

Answer 21 questions (3 per facility) and enter to win some super prizes including a \$100.00 Gift Certificate to the Monterey Bay Aquarium, Lunch for Two at Matthews At The Airport, One night stay for two at the Holiday Inn Express, Movie Tickets from the Park Cinema, Dinner or Lunch for Two at Season's At The River Oaks Golf Course and more!

5/21: Estrella Warbird docent orientation

We will have a docent orientation meeting on Sat. May 21st. at 1:00 PM. We would like anybody interested in being a docent to attend. Thanks, Tom Weiss [239-2637]



*The
Blueprinter
INC.*

Giant Printing & Scanning

**CADD Plotting - Enlargements - Reductions
in DIGITAL B&W and FULL COLOR**

1402 Spring St. Paso Robles, Ca. 93446

(805)227-0860 blueprinter@charter.net

Service & Support & Repairs

A National Moment of Remembrance On memorial day

That poem about where "poppies blow"
And, "the crosses, row on row"
Still rings true, these ninety years
After written, still brings tears.

We still have Dead, "amid the guns"
And lose our young and our loved ones
Those who lived, "short days ago"
Who, "felt dawn, saw sunset glow".

In Flanders Fields, "the poppy red"
Still grow near where the blood was bled
They, "Take up our quarrel with the foe"
And still die for Freedoms that we know.

They pass, "The torch" to, "hold it high"
And not, "break the faith with us who die"
For they, "shall not sleep, though poppies grow"
Beneath all those, "crosses, row on row"
In Flanders Fields.

Del "Abe" Jones
4-25-2005

Many places and people lay claim to being first to celebrate our Memorial Day but it is a time for all Americans to come together to Honor our War Heroes from all Wars. A three day weekend when we should all pause a moment and remember them as decreed by President Clinton in the year 2000.

<http://www.usmemorialday.org/speeches/president/may0200.txt>

I have "stolen" some partial lines from the famous poem "In Flanders Fields" written by Canadian John McCrae in 1915.

Info about McCrae and poem at <http://www.english.emory.edu/LostPoets/McCrae.html> and/or

<http://www.edu.pe.ca/vrcs/remembrance2000/flanders.html>

Visit <http://www.inflandersfields.be/default2.htm> <http://www.inflandersfields.be/default2.htm> for Flanders Fields Museum

Mankind's greatest accomplishment is not the revolution of technology, it is the evolution of creativity.

Please feel free to pass on anything you like and ask your friends to visit my pages. If you post something on a webpage please let me know when and where. More poetry and other links to my pages >

<http://mywebpage.netscape.com/delabejones/pag>

[e2.html](#)

New (old) book, "MOONTIDES, AND OTHER CHANGES" as well as "THE WORLD, WAR, FREEDOM, AND MORE" are now available for free viewing or download in text format at <http://home.att.net/~abeabe/index.html>.

To see pics of Ellis County Veterans Memorial in Waxahachie, Texas where two of my poems are inscribed go to

<http://www.rootsweb.com/~txellis/photos/veterans.htm>

My e-book, THE WORLD, WAR, FREEDOM, AND MORE" available for FREE. Just ask for it.

Thanks Volunteers

EWM Board says "THANKS" to the following people for volunteering their time to support The Wine Country RV Open House on Sat 4/16:

Obbie Atkinson; Jayne Sacks; Betsy Thomson; Dave Highland; Judy & Gary Corippo; Bob Kelly; the members of "The Restoration Crew" who came for a visit; Betty & Chuck Miller; Jackie & Ron Brooks. Your participation was greatly appreciated. Jackie Brooks

Dinners: Price up, selection to expand

An increase in Dinner prices to \$12 has been approved, effective July 1. John and team will offer a better selection, "If you compare the senior meal menus at the local restaurants the price is much higher by the time the diner pays tax and tip for the same type of meal," [plus you don't get seconds as Gary says!] Required by the increase in grocery and utility costs, any "profits" aid the paying of utilities.

MARITIME MUSEUM MAKES SHIP REGISTERS AVAILABLE

Are you drawn to the lore of the sea? Then you may be interested in the ship registers gathered by Mystic Seaport--The Museum of America and the Sea, in Mystic, CT.

The registers begin with the New York Marine Register of 1857. They run through the Record of American and Foreign Shipping, 1900. All told, the 55 volumes contain about one million records. When you click on a volume, you can hunt vessels alphabetically. You can also search by vessel name and shipmaster. The search will return the volume number and page. Find it at the link below:

<http://tinyurl.com/6amvg>

A raid to remember

By Stroube Smith

Today the United States wields far-reaching global military muscle as the sole remaining superpower. So it is difficult for younger people to realize how desperate and battered Americans felt in the early months of World War II.

That is why a daring mission 63 years ago on April 19 -- with strength and numbers that might have caused it to be discountenanced as a stunt -- had such a powerful effect not only on Americans but also the Japanese leaders and people.

On April 18, 1942, 16 Army Air Force B-25s took off from the flight deck of the aircraft carrier **USS Hornet** on what became known as the Doolittle Raid on Tokyo.

Starting with the Japanese attack on December 7, 1941, on the U.S. fleet at Pearl Harbor, one U.S. and Allied defeat had been stacked on another, one disaster after another. Amidst the national anger after the Japanese sneak attack that brought the United States into the war, President Roosevelt pressed the military for any sort of attack against Tokyo.

There was no Allied base close enough to Japan, however, for the launch of such a retaliatory mission. Months passed with no answer. Then a Navy staff officer on a visit to Norfolk saw painted on the ground at a nearby airfield the outline of a carrier deck, inspiring the idea of flying land-based bombers -- with their greater range -- off a carrier.

Under a heavy cloak of secrecy, **Capt. Marc Mitscher, Hornet's commander**, found B-25s could be airborne from as little as 500 feet of deck. The raid was no longer only a hope but became a plan for action.

On April 8, the same day the American and Filipinos surrendered on the Bataan Peninsula, the carrier USS Enterprise and escorts steamed out of Pearl Harbor for a rendezvous with a sister carrier and destiny. Six days earlier, Hornet and escorts had left San Francisco [**NAS ALAMEDA**] with 16 B25s in two parallel rows on deck. The **two carriers joined forces April 13 under**

command of Vice Adm. William F. Halsey.

The eventual operation was more daring than most of the 16,000 men in the task force could imagine. After refueling on April 17, Hornet, Enterprise and four cruisers left the destroyers and support ships behind and dashed westward as fast as possible toward the Japanese home islands.

Things were going according to plan until 3 a.m. April 18, when radar picked up surface contacts. Halsey maneuvered his force around the contacts and continued west. But at 6 o'clock a patrolling plane 42 miles ahead spotted a Japanese picket ship. Amid stormy seas, Adm. Halsey pushed on. Ninety minutes later, the Hornet's lookouts spotted the masts of more Japanese picket ships. **About 200 miles short of the planned launching line, Adm. Halsey decided he could gamble no more, and ordered the B-25s into the air.**

And so Col. James Doolittle led his flight of bombers off the carrier. Many of the planes nearly stalled after leaving the flight deck, a much shorter run-out than on land, but the high winds helped them lift up and fly away. Launched so far from the target, the B25s didn't spend fuel forming up but headed directly west in a long ragged line behind Doolittle, while the carriers immediately headed home.

Radiomen on the task force tuned into Radio Tokyo, which was airing a propaganda program in English. Suddenly, a little after noon Tokyo time, the broadcaster's careful diction gave way to frantic Japanese and then dead air.

As air raid sirens blared and anti-aircraft guns began barking, the first B-25s raced in at an altitude of 2,000 feet and emptied their bomb bays. Military targets across Tokyo were hit by Col. Doolittle and 12 other bombers: an oil tank farm, a steel mill and several power plants. To the south, targets in Yokohama and Yokosuka were hit. Still, some civilian targets were hit: six schools and an army hospital.

It was never part of the plan for the bombers to return to the fleet. While they could take off from a carrier's deck, it was much too short for landing. An airfield in China had been selected for the planes' landings, but with the early takeoff it was much too far. One plane turned north and surprised the Soviets by landing near Vladivostok. The other 15 crashed or ditched in China.

Remarkably, most of the 80 fliers survived the raid. Of the eight captured, three were executed by the Japanese and one died in captivity. Four others were killed during the mission.

Both Col. Doolittle and Adm. Halsey went on to higher rank and more military glory and honors. But nothing surpassed this mission as a feat of daring.

Breaking the steady drumbeat of months of defeat, Americans finally had a victory to celebrate. It gave a salutary and necessary boost to morale.

On the other hand, the boasts by the Japanese leadership of an invulnerable empire's claim of invincibility was made a mockery.

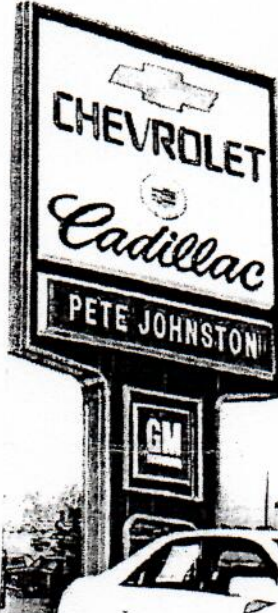
They rarely have so few achieved so much.

George Smith is a copy editor for The Washington Times and a free-lance writer.

Monday work detail

Date: Mon, 25 Apr 2005 12:42:42 -0700
 It was a great pleasure working with our members Sunday, what a great crew. The passion and commitment shown by our members was very apparent to the work crew. I feel is the reason for the success of this project.
 Please keep me posted...
 George Taylor <taylors76@msn.com>

D.P. INDUSTRIES
 AIRCRAFT HANGAR DOOR SPECIALISTS
 OVER 27 YEARS EXPERIENCE
 Web: www.dpindustries.com
 Email: doors@dpindustries.com
 Phone: 805-238-9011
 Fax: 805-238-1917



PETE JOHNSTON

New & Used Cars & Trucks
 2485 Theatre Drive
 Paso Robles California 93447
 805 238-7800
**Sales - Leasing
 Parts - Service**



Chevy Truck
 AN AMERICAN REVOLUTION

BREAK THROUGH

**Drive In - Drive On
 Drive Out
 QUICK LUBE EXPRESS**



24 Hour Towing
 TOWING STORAGE 238-1535

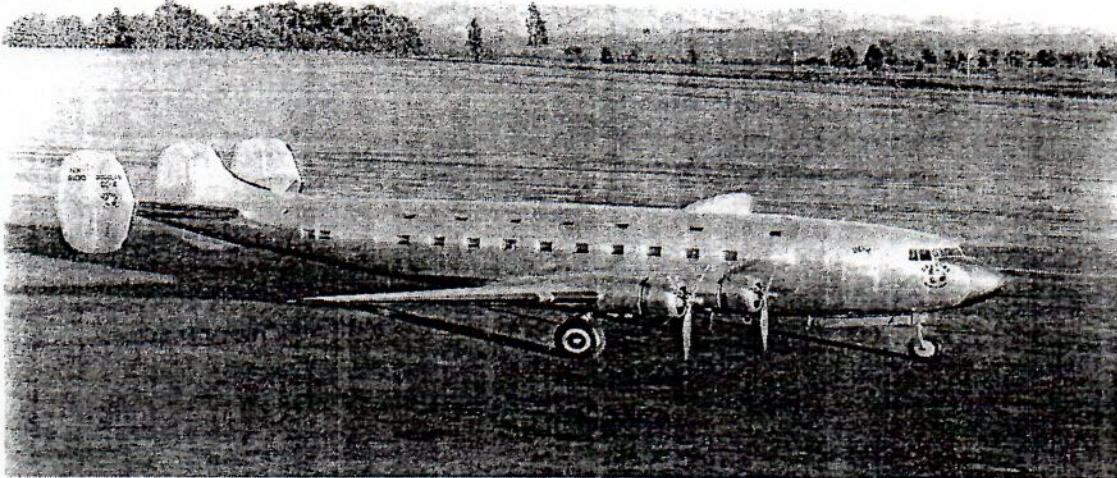
GM Parts
 THE FEELING IS GENUINE



Convenient - Accessible - Affordable
 Verizon Wireless

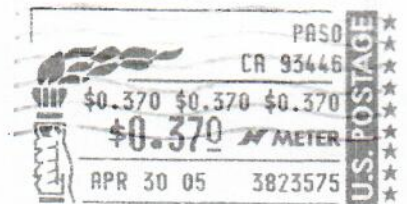
Roadside Assistance Provider

.May Mystery Photo



Your rememberer working today? Can you identify THIS airplane? Call Betty at 466-1212 to identify

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



TO: ~~Rosemary Netto~~
~~998 River Road~~
~~San Miguel, CA 93451~~

6

466-1212

