

Estrella Warbird Museum "Eagle" --- March 2007

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March 7 Program: *Japanese Prison Camp*

Children survive Axis imprisonment, Nazi occupation of their homeland

Guest speakers for our March 7th dinner meeting will be Ralph Brink, who spent three years at a Japanese prison camp in Indonesia, and his wife Cathy, who was forced to leave her home in then Nazi-occupied Netherlands.

Together they published a softcover book in 2006 titled: "W.W.II As Seen Through Kids' Eyes." Ralph and Cathy Brink are retired and live in Atascadero.

George Marrett
(My new email address is:
GMarrett@charter.net)

George Marrett is EWM Program Chairman

The Prez Sez...

PROMISE FULFILLED!

It has been less than two years since the Estrella Warbird Directors set their sights on a much needed new museum building. Being the new kid on the block I was just starting to realize how committed and persistent our members can be when they set goals.

The entire process from fund raising to completion was carried out with true professionalism. This new facility would not have been possible without the support of our members and the community. I wish to thank the many contributors that put faith and trust in us to carry out this project we promised them.

"Freedom Hall" is a first class facility that we can share with pride. All members are invited to check out this new facility. Betty Miller and Carol Weiss are the stewards of our valuable artifacts that number into the

March 7 Dinner Menu:

Please RSVP a.s.a.p. @ 466-1212

Corned Beef Steamed in Guinness

Horseradish & Mustard Sauce

Boiled Red Potatoes

Cabbage

Green Salad

Cornmeal Muffins

Cobbler

Coffee/Tea

Social at 6 pm, Dinner at 7

Only \$12 per

RSVP: 466-1212

thousands. Not only will they be setting up many of the displays, they will be preserving and keeping inventory of our artifacts. Many of the exhibits will change over time, giving our visitors something new to see on repeat visits.

I call the new gift shop "Jackie's Gifts & Treasures". This is an upper scale store with new items available on a regular basis. I wish to welcome aboard the new gift shop workers and museum docents that will be joining our ranks. I also wish to express my thanks and respect to our current docents and gift shop workers that have endured less than favorable working conditions over the years. They have endured from very hot to very cold and damp conditions. Thank you for sticking with it while we progressed to the new facility.

I am saddened with the news that Doug Miner has passed away. We have lost a dedicated supporter of the museum and his

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smiling face will be missed. Doug not only supported the museum by being a docent but was always there at our monthly meetings selling dinner tickets. Doug also enjoyed going with us on some of our recent group trips.

God's speed good friend.

March 6th is our group trip to Castle Air Museum. We may still have some room on the tour bus. I can be contacted at 448-7402 to secure your ticket for this trip. The Castle Museum has over 40 aircraft on display along with their museum artifacts. This will be a great trip.

I wish to invite our members to join us March 7th at our monthly dinner meeting. Enjoy the friendship of our members and socialize over a glass of our famous Paso wines. I encourage you to bring a guest. Please call ahead allowing us to give Chef John Himes and crew a head count. Call 466-1212 to make your reservation.

Very respectfully

George Taylor

President, Estrella Warbird Museum

"Honoring The Past, Inspiring The Future"

Museum Musings

By Betty Miller

Freedom Hall is now OPEN!

Thank you to the members of our Board of Directors who all donated to the Freedom Hall project and to all the Platinum and Sterling Donors who believed in the concept and dug deep and made it all happen! Thank you to all of you who rolled up your sleeves and helped put up walls, hang sheetrock, paint, hang doors, clean, move all those heavy display cases out of the Hangar, and helped us set up the Museum.

Many thanks to **Gary Corippo**, **Don Peckinpugh** and **Bill Carlson** who helped us get the clothes on the hard-to-handle mannequins! We all have a new respect for the folks who are professional window dressers in department stores! (Speaking of

E-Mail addresses need updating! Editor is building a new list for testing electronic version of the EWM Eagle. Please send yours to <rdreddick@charter.net>

Dates to remember

Wednesday, February 28 - Freedom Hall Grand Opening, 5:30 p.m.

Tuesday March 6 - Estrella Warbird trip to Castle Air Force Base Museum - 7 a.m. Thomsen Hall

Wednesday, March 7 - Monthly Dinner Meeting

"Honoring The Past, Inspiring The Future"

E-Mail addresses need updating! Editor is building a new list for testing electronic version of the EWM Eagle. Please send yours to <rdreddick@charter.net>

BUY A BLOCK

We need to pour some more cement for the display aircraft area. \$100.00 will buy a block with your name, or the name of a loved one. Call Rosemary Netto at 467-3521 to add yours today.

which – if anybody out there has experience in dressing mannequins we *need* you to show us any shortcuts!)

If you didn't come to the Donor Reception and Open House Tour on Wednesday the 28th, try to get out on a Saturday from 10am to 4pm and check it out.

We finally have more than a "collection of Stuff" We are actually a "real" Museum now. Things are attractively displayed with descriptions of each item. We still have items that are stored. Some will be used for educational purposes, others will be on the rotation list. We will be rotating some items in the displays three times a year so that there will be something new to see.

Our Docents are happy to be in a climate controlled environment. Freedom Hall is warm in the cold weather and we should be very comfortable in the hot weather as well.



For our visitors we have some changes - Because of increased numbers in our visitor count, we are in the process of working out adding **Fridays** to our schedule. At this point in time we are planning to be open from 12 noon to 4 pm on Fridays starting mid-March. Saturdays and Sundays will have the same hours for the time being..

Beginning **Saturday, March 10** there will be a suggested donation for admission to the Museum for non members. **As a Member in good standing, you will be able to visit with no charge.**

Visitor (non Museum members) Donation:

Adults: \$5.00 each

Seniors (Over 65) \$4.00 each

Students: With Student ID \$4.00 each

Children under 12: \$3.00 each

Family*: \$15.00

(*1-2 Adults with 2 to 4 children under 12)

Tour Groups: Contact 466-1212 for Tour Rate

It is amazing to many folks in the community that the members of the Estrella Warbird Museum were able to get funds raised within three years and that 7 months from the ground breaking in July 2006 the building was completed! So many times other organizations have raised funds and then years go by with no activity on a proposed project. This is a "*can do*" group and you should all be proud to be a part of it.

Come Visit Your Museum!

Betty and Carol

Curators: Betty-466-1212; Carol - 239-2637

Gift Shop Workers and Docents Needed.

Our new building is a wonderful addition to the Estrella Warbird Museum. However, it takes up to 30 people per month to keep the Museum & Gift Shop open. Let's talk about a weekend time and job designed for you. I feel it is a privilege to be a part off this wonderful

group, you will too. We look forward to working with you. *Jackie Brooks*

Gift Shop Mgr. Jackie at: 462-8141

Docent Coordinator, Tom Weiss at:239-2637

Membership News

I would like to once again thank Obbie for his trust in turning over the Membership Committee to me.

I am looking foreword to working with Obbie and the committee members, Betty Miller, Pam Morrison, Rosemary Netto and Charmaine Peckinpough.

We will continue to strive for the success that has been achieved in the past.

Don Peckinpough,

Membership Chairman

New Members:

David Renton LIFE MEMBER

Gary Nelson STAR MEMBER

Up grade:

Bruce & Rosie Hebron to LIFE MEMBERS

Sunshine committee: Joe Benson
Visit <www.JoeRadio.org>

Joe Benson has been a strong supporter of our museum. The URL for a new website is above, E-mail address is oaktree@fix.net, send cards and letters c/o radio station KPRL, P.O. Box 7, Paso Robles, CA 93447.

Cardiac bypass surgery was successful at French Hospital on February 21st. The web page notes that there is a "Joe Benson fund" set up at Heritage Oaks Bank branches for folks who can help Joe and Valerie. [He has been on unpaid leave since being hospitalized in late October.]

Membership Mission from Obbie:

The Museum membership recently passed the 300 mark. This puts the "Estrella Warbird Museum" at the top, or close, for museum organizations in the "North County." We are all thankful for the "Freedom" we inherited and continue to share. The "Museum" serves as a reminder of the sacrifice required. Our community agrees with it's support.

As the "Museum" continues to serve the community and our nation with the visual

reminders of what our "Freedom" is about, we welcome more new members and supporters as we grow. Members, share this great experience with your friends. Ask them to visit, to join, and to share the joy in our success. --Obbie

Welcome New Members!

"Freedom Flight"



Picture program is growing

We want all of our members that were in the service (even the Army) to send or bring a picture of themselves when they were in the military. We will have them blown up to an 8x10 size, framed, and hang them on the back wall near the Bar. We have already received about forty of them and they are now hanging for all to see. We would prefer to have you guys in your working uniforms (utilities, fatigues, pilot outfits, etc.) so that all can see you as you were when you were working or in combat. Get the pictures to Gary, Betty, George, or just leave it at the Museum counter in an envelope. It is IMPORTANT that you put your Name, rank at the time, date and station/ship on the back so that we can identify these young kids that have changed so much over twenty or fifty (?) years ! I think it will be alot of fun and hopefully everyone will want to be part of it as it grows. Could have upwards of 100 pictures on the wall. For the members that were not in the service, send us a picture of yourself or we will take a picture of you working at the Museum. Please include \$ 3.00 for the frame and we will have the picture enlarged for you.

Gary Corippo- Director

CAMP ROBERTS HISTORICAL MUSEUM

**** FEBRUARY UPDATE ****

The Museum is coordinating a fund drive to convince local businesses to join the Camp Roberts Historical Museum Foundation as Corporate Life Members for \$1,000 each. It looks like we need to raise some serious money if we are go get the Main Museum re-

Proposed concept of a memorial to honor veterans, provide an income source to supplement museum expenses, to complement and sustain membership growth, and increase Freedom Hall visits is being developed. --Obbie

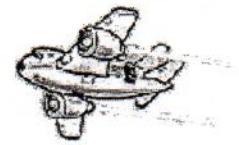
roofed and get a new heating and air conditioning system in it. We also have to raise money to get all of the Camp Roberts newspapers from WWII and the Korean War digitalized and preserved. We would also like to get one of the restrooms in the Main Museum renovated into a handicapped accessible restroom. Even now--as we are in the final stage of just getting this fund drive off the ground--we have already received one such membership for Loya Electrical Construction, Inc. of Cordelia, California, and another one from the Caspar W. Weinberger Foundation of Mt. Desert, Maine. Mr. Caspar W. Weinberger, Jr., who was so instrumental in making our exhibit on his late father a reality, is Executive Director of that foundation. He is also writing a letter to go along with our packets to businesses urging their support.

I have recently convinced some notable people to become members of a Board of Chancellors for the Museum that I am forming. Lieutenant General Herbert R. Temple, Jr., USA (Ret), former Chief of the National Guard Bureau, has agreed to become a board member, as has Brigadier General Glenn E. Muggelberg, USA (Ret), who was the first National Guard Commander of Camp Roberts. Arlen Weinberger, daughter of the late Secretary of Defense, has also agreed to be on the Board, as has Capt. Dale Dye, USMC (Ret). Dye is a highly- decorated Vietnam Veteran and an actor who has appeared in *Saving Private Ryan*, *Band of Brothers*, *Platoon* and other films. He hosted and narrated an episode of *The Conquerors* for the History Channel at our Museum a while back. I am also trying to contact R. Lee "Gunny" Ermey to see if he will agree to be on this Board. The Chancellery is not involved in the day-to-day activities of the Museum, but rather is an advisory board to support and represent the Museum in various sectors of American life.

The widow of Brigadier General Robert Elder had her daughter drive her up last week from her home in Santa Barbara to visit the Museum and see the recent exhibit on her late husband. He was a combat vet of both WWII and the Korean War (Silver and Bronze Stars), later Asst. Commander of the 40th Division and Commander of the 40th Separate Brigade. She was real pleased with the exhibit in our Korean War Room and had a very pleasant tour of the Museum.

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We now have the antique-style Stereoscope I spoke of in the last Update, as part of the Corporal Harold Roberts area. Visitors now can peer at an original WWI-period 3D stereo view of Renault tanks heading to the Front--like the Renault in which our namesake spent the final days of his young life.



The WWII Research and Preservation Society recently made a donation of \$500 to the Museum. Jim Camarillo, head of the group, also donated two complete WWII German uniforms (Afrika Corps and SS) for our WWII Axis Exhibit. They are original and complete with field gear, helmets, weapons, bayonet, etc. One of the tunics was used in *Saving Private Ryan*. These are very valuable sets and you will see them on new mannequins in an upgraded exhibit soon. In the future we plan a fully fitted-out Japanese WWII soldier as well.

We now have large pieces of the Berlin Wall on exhibit in the Main Museum, thanks to the donation of SGT Brad Snively who got them as a soldier stationed in Germany when people first began tearing down the wall. You may have seen our items from Saddam's Palace at Babylon brought to us by a veteran of OIF. We should also soon have pieces of Hitler's Eagle's Nest on exhibit. I love to get unique pieces of history like this that you will not see at a museum anywhere else!

Special thanks go out to Mike Kelley and Paul Zemke. We now have three nice legal-size filing cabinets so we can reorganize all of our historical photograph and document files in the Museum office. This is very important in providing proper and adequate storage for the archival history of Camp Roberts.

If you should happen to know of a business that might be interested in supporting the Museum by becoming a Corporate Life Member, please let us know and we will contact them on this.

Don't forget--Renewals of annual memberships and new Life Members in the Museum Foundation are a key to supporting the Museum's mission. If you're not already a member—Please think seriously about supporting the preservation of Camp Roberts' proud history! Annual Membership is just \$15. Life membership is \$100. We can't do it *without YOU!*

The Museum continues to provide its visitors with an intimate glimpse of your Camp's long and illustrious history.

When you have a chance, please stop by!

Thank you!

Gary McMaster, Camp Roberts Curator

Doug Miner, R.I.P.

Warbird G.D. Doug Miner, 82, of Paso Robles, died on Tuesday, February 13, 2007, at a local hospital.

Miner was born June 11, 1924, in Berkeley and raised in Richmond. Upon completion of high school he joined the Naval Aviation Cadet Program, received his Navy wings in 1944, and served as a naval aviator in WWII until 1945. He attended San Francisco State College, graduating in 1949. He worked in broadcasting in the Bay Area until he was recalled during the Korean Conflict in 1952 and served in the Office of the Secretary of Defense, Radio Information Department, and the Naval Photo Center in Anacortia, D.C. Subsequently he served as the first Public Affairs Officer in Spain during the establishment of the Naval base in Rota, Spain.

Upon his discharge from the Navy he began a 30-year career with Lockheed Missiles and Space Company in Sunnyvale, where he was a lead engineer until retiring in 1987.

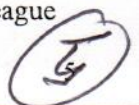
Miner has lived in Paso Robles since 1988 and was an active member of Kiwanis, Paso Robles Elks Lodge No. 2364, Estrella Warbird Museum, a docent for the Pioneer Museum and a member of the Paso Robles Golf and County Club.

He was preceded in death by his sons Gregg and Grant, and wives Gladys and Peg. He is survived by his son, George D. Miner III and wife Sue; daughter Constance Villa and husband Raymond; five grandchildren; two great-grandchildren; and his companion Jean Coulson.

At his request, no service will be held. Burial will be at Arlington National Cemetery, in Arlington, Va.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Estrella Warbird Museum or the Pioneer Museum in Paso Robles.

"Speed and Angels" Was Sold Out!
The first joint event with the local Navy League



was really fun! We filled Thomsen Hall on Friday, the 23rd.

Navy League's Rob Bryn wrote to the movie directors and EWM: "The place is sold out, so we have a full house for dinner and a movie. George Taylor from Estrella Warbird Museum did a fantastic job of getting the high end DVD projector, it is in and tested. The new screen is at least twice the size of the old and the sound and picture quality are reported excellent. The TV press is still up in the air due to the Amgen Tour of CA that is dominating the market, however we have the news director from both the Fox and CBS outlets coming which gives us a better chance at some good press for the movie. The NBC affiliate is pitching the story again tomorrow at the PM meeting and I will know what is up after that. The movie review came out in "Ticket," in the local S.L.O. daily and the phone calls from that is what filled the place. Please be at the museum by 1800 to do grip and grins. Should be a great night. Thank you both for agreeing to do this for us and thank you for telling the Naval Aviation story in such a marvelous way. All the best, Rob [Bryn]

FREEDOM HALL - Support

Help out and please donate to the Freedom Hall Fund Raising effort. Let's make it "100% support" from the membership. Your entire Board of Directors were the first to donate and pledge, many of your fellow members have already done so, and we have the support of many from our Community as well. Now it's time for all of us to contribute whatever we can to get to 100%

DONATION FORM --- FREEDOM HALL

Name _____

Address: _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Phone _____

Email address _____

Amount of Donation: \$ _____ **

**If you wish to pledge an amount and make monthly payments, please indicate here:

Send this form and your check to:
Rosemary Netto, Treasurer
Estrella Warbird Museum

4251 Dry Creek Road
Paso Robles, CA 93446

Or you may use your *Credit Card*! Please call Rosemary at 467-3521 between 7 am and 4 pm to arrange this .

Thank You!



Paso Robles EWM--Board of Directors [Updated]

Obbie Atkinson, Ron & Jackie Brooks, Gary Corippo, John Cromwell, John Dolan, Dave Highland, Betty Miller, Chuck Miller (Past President 2005-6), Rosemary Netto, Don Peckinpaugh, Wayne Rice, Al Schade, George Taylor (President 2006-7), Glen Thomson, Tom Weiss, John Whitworth.

To Whom It May Concern:

The phone line including the Credit Card Machine for the Gift Shop, - is connected and operative in Freedom Hall as of Tuesday, January 23, 2007.

The number is the same as it was when we were in the hanger:-- 805-238-9317.

That's it for now. *Jackie*



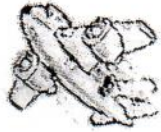
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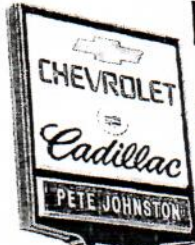
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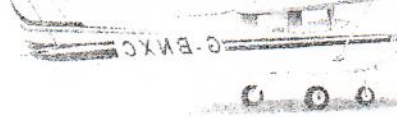
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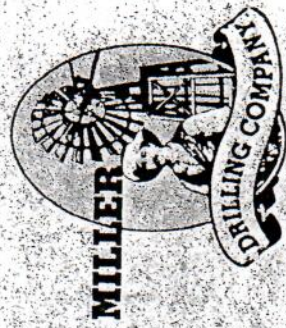


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