

The Estrella Warbird Museum

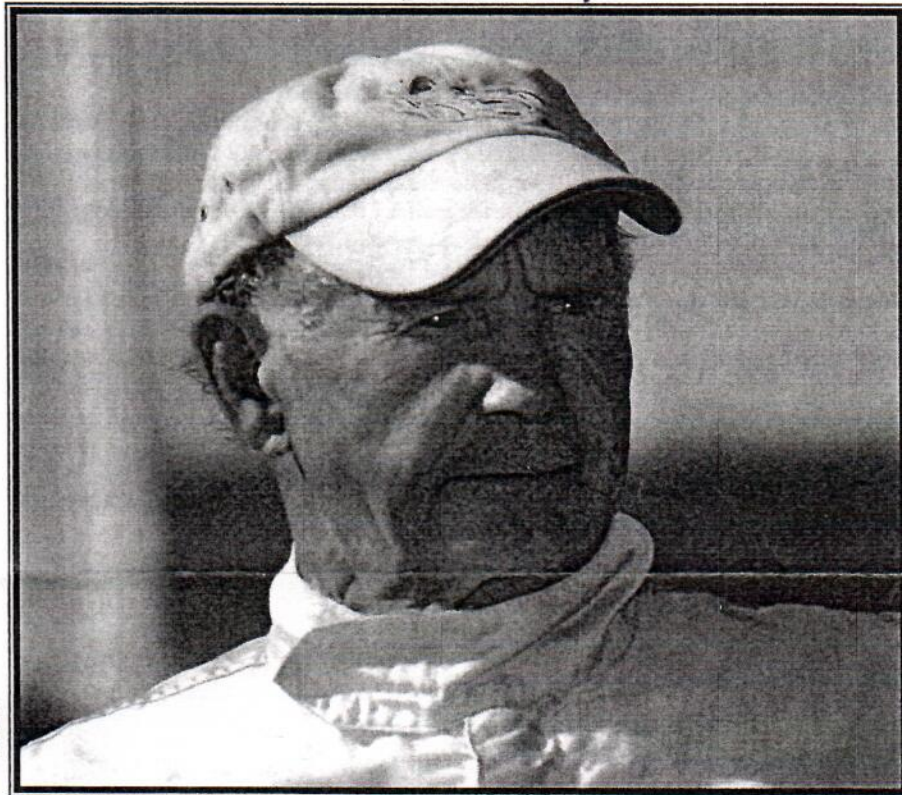
The Eagle

Honoring the Past—Inspiring the Future

Volume 15, Number ⁴ —Paso Robles, California—April 2010



Vol: XXI-04



Parnelli Jones, winner of the 1963 Indy 500 and one of the greatest competitors in the history of American racing, will be the Celebrity Guest at the second annual Warbirds, Wings, and Wheels automobile show on Saturday, May 8, 2010. Meet a real legend and lend a hand in making the show a success by volunteering your time. See page 6 for more information on volunteering.

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Words to Live By from the Old Curmudgeon:

When a prang seems inevitable, endeavour to strike the softest, cheapest object in the vicinity, as slowly and gently as possible.
--- advice given to RAF pilots during the Battle of Britain





“Thoughts From the Flight Line” Musings by the President, Peter Visel

I am always amazed at the sense of volunteerism that has persisted at Estrella Warbirds Museum. As I step back and look over what has been accomplished over the past twenty years, one is even more amazed. What started in a reconstructed almond factory building, has developed into a viable first class museum, with visitors from the world over crossing the entry threshold to experience, or re-experience a portion of history from times gone by.

During these struggling harsh economic times, the museum has continued to grow, continued to move forward, continued to not just survive, but thrive. As we move into the month of April, we once again begin construction on yet another facility. Didn't we just finish the auto museum? No, we have just finished a good start, as the best is yet to come!

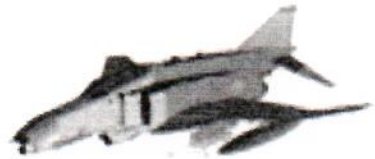
I have been frequently reminded by visitors that they really appreciate the effort that the Estrella Warbirds Museum members have put forth in presenting artifacts from our history in which they, the visitor, can intimately relate to, whether it be to a uniform, a picture, a munition or an aircraft. Somewhere in their past, they had previously made some sort of personal connection which has made an impression upon their life, and they are forever grateful that we took the time to preserve that portion of history.

None of this could happen without somebody volunteering their time, whether if be in presenting the artifact, setting up the display, restoring the vehicle or aircraft, maintaining it, or just be on hand to share with the visitor. I applaud everyone involved with the museum whom has taken time out to volunteer their services or time. It is most gratefully appreciated, not just by your fellow volunteers, but also by visitors to the museum or to the website. My sincere thanks to one and all.

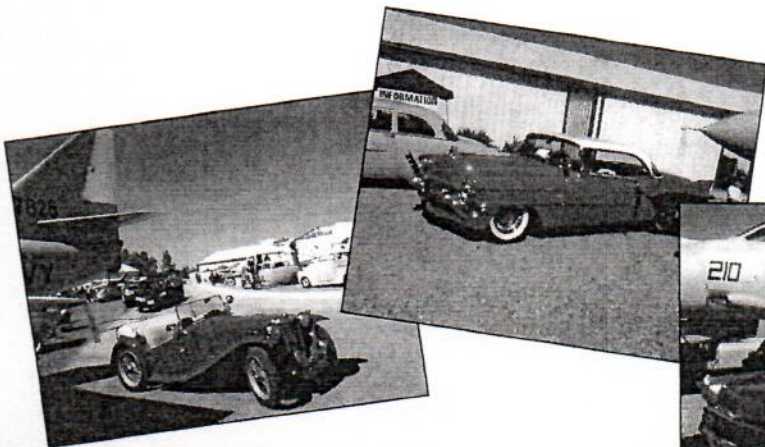
Coming up in May, will be Warbirds, Wings & Wheels 2. This will be one of the largest events we have held at the museum. It is not just a car show, but a time that we can share our experiences with the surrounding communities and with people from all across California that come to visit. Yes, it will take more volunteers, but it's going to be a fun, exciting experience and another great milestone in our 20 plus year history! Thanks in advance for your help!

Regards,

Peter D. Visel
Estrella Warbirds Museum
President
www.ewarbirds.org
cell 805 423-6409



Scenes from Last Year's Warbirds, Wings, & Wheels



Can You Find
Tom Gabele's Car? See Back
Page For Answer.





**April 7 Program— Capt. Charlie Plumb
Fighter Pilot, POW, and a Real
American Hero**
George Marrett, Program Chairman

Captain Charlie Plumb graduated from the Naval Academy at Annapolis and went on to fly the F-4 Phantom jet on 74 successful combat missions over North Vietnam. On his 75th mission, with only five days before he was to return home, Plumb was shot down, captured, tortured, and imprisoned in an 8 foot x 8 foot cell. He spent the next 2,103 days as a Prisoner Of War in communist prison camps.

During his nearly six years of captivity, Charlie Plumb distinguished himself among his fellow prisoners as a professional in underground communications, and served for two of those years as the Chaplain in his camp.

Since his return home, more than 4,000 audiences in nearly every industry have been spellbound as Captain Charlie Plumb draws parallels between his P.O.W. experience and the challenges of everyday life. He has shared his message to an even wider public through appearances on *Good Morning America*, *Nightline*, *Larry King Live*, and *The NewsHour with Jim Lehrer*. One of the most sought-after achievement speakers of his time, Charlie Plumb's presentations are as he is, sincere, straightforward, humorous, and tailored to motivate each specific audience he encounters.

Captain Plumb's Military honors include two Purple Hearts, the Legion of Merit, the Silver Star, the Bronze Star and the P.O.W. Medal.

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Dinner Menu

Wednesday, April 7, 2010

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By NOON Tuesday, April 6th

Thank You

Social Hour 6pm-7pm



Movie Nite !

Wednesday - April 14th

6:00pm - Pizza & Popcorn

6:30pm - Movie Time

MEMPHIS BELLE



STARRING: Harry Connick Jr, John Lithgow, David Straithorn



The "Memphis Belle" is a World War II bomber, piloted by a young crew on dangerous bombing raids into Europe. The crew only has to make one more bombing raid before they have finished their duty and can go home. In the briefing before their last flight, the crew discovers that the target for the day is Dresden, a heavily-defended town that invariably causes many Allied casualties.

★★★ Roger Ebert (1990 - 107 min.)

MOVIE BUFF'S QUIZ

The B-17 went through many iterations as aeronautical engineers listened to combat-hardened pilots and crews talk about their experiences on raids over Europe. So, for all of you four-engine fans out there, what kind of B-17 was the real "Memphis Belle" and what kind of B-17 was used in the film. For extra credit, how many B-17s (of any type) were used in the filming of "Memphis Belle"? Finally, for a Gold Star beside you name, where is the "Memphis Belle" today and how did she get there?



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⇒ <http://www.ewarbirds.org/www2.html> ⇐

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We need volunteers to help park cars, do set-up and tear-down work, help with beverages, and generally lend a hand as needed. It's fun, it's important, and it makes you part of something that is fast becoming an important annual tradition in Paso Robles.



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MUSEUM MUSINGS & DOCENT DOINGS

By Betty Miller, Museum Curator

Curator Comments: I attended the Exhibit Makeover Workshop at the Institute of Texas Culture located at the University of Texas at San Antonio on Thursday and Friday, February 18 & 19. There were 18 attendees from a variety of Museums ranging from Civil War Museums, Local Historical Museums, Military Museums, Marine Museums and even a Fishing Museum! The workshop was really informational and involved active participation in developing new exhibits using actual materials from an existing exhibit at the Institute of Texas Culture. The participants were from Michigan, New Mexico, Arizona, Illinois and Texas. I was the only one from California. We had a Designer and an Exhibit Architect from the Institute of Texas Culture who participated as well which really enabled us to find out how to create a spectacular exhibit from raw materials at hand.

I am hoping to prepare a new WW II seaplane exhibit using some of the ideas I got from the workshop. The trick is to create a really great exhibit on a very limited budget.

Docent Doings: **Jeanne Thiebaud** is our new Docent & Giftshop Coordinator who is scheduling the Woodland and Freedom Hall Docents, Simulator Operators and the Gift Shop Volunteers. Welcome aboard Jeanne!

We had a total of 45 Docents and Gift Shop Volunteers and their spouses attending our Annual Volunteer Potluck and Tour on Sunday, March 14th. We did a tour of the Woodland Auto Display, the Brooks Building, Freedom Hall and the Gift Shop followed by a delicious dinner of **Larry Eastwood's** baked chicken, roasted potatoes and homemade rolls, plus a fantastic array of salads and deserts from the kitchens of our multi-talented volunteers! For those who missed this event, you missed a great time of fellowship and fun. Many thanks to **Chuck Keezer, Jill Keezer, Jeanne Thiebaud, Margi Bauer, Hal Bauer, and Chuck Miller** who helped do the clean up after the dinner.

There are 12 new prospective Docents for the Woodland Auto Display and some have already begun their introductory Docent Training.

Thanks **Dave Brooks, Ron Brooks, Gary Corippo, Jayne Sacks, Linda Hermansen, and Howard Love** for going over the new additions to our displays and the Gift Shop with our "Tour Group".

GIFT SHOP GOSSIP

The Gift Shop & Museum are open, free of charge, from 5:45 to 6:45 PM before our monthly Dinner Meetings. Drop by, bring your guests, and browse the shelves and take a look at the progress your Museum is making.

As always, the Gift Shop needs more docents. If you think you would like to volunteer call me at 703-0028 or leave a message on the EWM answer machine at 227-0440. I promise, I'll get back to you. Docent hours are flexible, new docents receive individual training, and everyone has a great time meeting new people and helping build our Museum.

Jackie Brooks, Gift Shop Mgr.

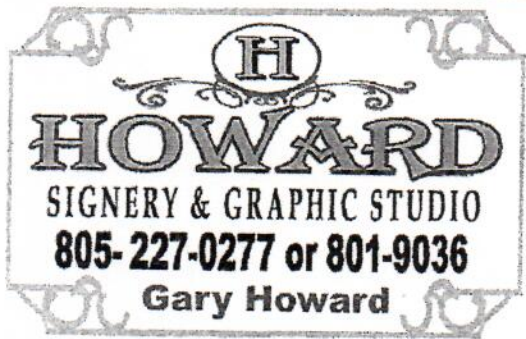
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Former Champ Car and Silver Crown Champion George Snider Visits Woodland Hall



George Snider, center, who drove his way into the starting field for the Indy 500 twenty-three consecutive times and who won the 1971 USAC Silver Crown Championship and the 1981 USAC Champ Car Championship visited the EWM in March with longtime friend Dick Woodland. Dick is at the left and on the right is former Santa Maria Speedway Champion Jim Eiland. Jim drove the Patricia Woodland Offy #72 to victory in its last race and has helped Dick restore many of the cars on display in Woodland Hall.

MOVIE BUFF'S QUIZ—THE ANSWERS

The original "Memphis Belle" is an F Model. The B-17 used in the film to portray her is a B-17G with its chin turret removed. It is owned by David Tallichet, who repainted it to match the real "Memphis Belle's" livery. In the film, however, the paint scheme is not accurate because Warner Bros. lawyers were concerned about duplicating the original scheme.

Five real B-17s were used in filming "Memphis Belle." Two were flown in from the US, two came from France, and one was already based in England. One of the French aircraft crashed during the filming. Although everyone onboard survived, the aircraft was destroyed in the ensuing fire. Only one of the B-17s is an F Model like the "Memphis Belle." All of the others are the G Models that appeared later in the War.

Today the "Memphis Belle" is on display at the Air Force Museum outside of Dayton, Ohio. It was donated to the Museum by a Tennessee group that had displayed the aircraft in Memphis from 1987-2004, when the cost of maintaining the aircraft became too high.



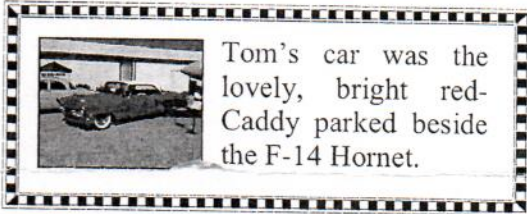
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Bob Kinnear was pretty sure it wouldn't fly but Gary Corippo insisted that he had the complete plans and if the Museum would just build it he'd take it up.



Tom's car was the lovely, bright red-Caddy parked beside the F-14 Hornet.

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