

# The Estrella Warbirds Museum

# The Eagle

Honoring the Past—Inspiring the Future

Volume 15, Number <sup>6</sup> Paso Robles, California—June 2010



Vol XXI - 006

## Big Change of Schedule for June! Monthly Meeting is "Second" Wednesday Of Month, Monthly Movie is "First" Monday.

Our guest speaker for June is the author and award winning aviator Elgen Long who, with his wife Marie, wrote "*Amelia Earhart: The Mystery Solved*", the well-received and carefully documented story of Earhart's last flight. Because Mr. Long is only available on June 9th we have switched our monthly dinner meeting to Wednesday, June 9 and will show the motion picture *Amelia* on the first Wednesday of the month, June 2. So, make sure you mark your calendars because this is a speaker (and a film) you will not want to miss.



A few scenes from the wildly successful *Warbirds, Wings, & Wheels II* car show the Museum put on in early May. With over 250 cars from all across the west this was one of the best attended car shows in the history of the Central Coast and a fitting farewell to our out-going President, Peter Visel, who organized the initial show last year and oversaw this year's event. Well done, Mr. V! And, a tip o' the hat to Howard Love and his crew for getting the cars parked and ready for show.

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### Words to Live By from the Old Curmudgeon

If helicopters are so safe, how come there are no vintage/classic helicopter fly-ins?  
-- Anon.





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

*The Estrella Warbirds Museum Board of Directors on behalf of themselves and the membership want to thank Peter Visel for his dedication and hard work on behalf of the Museum during his term of office, June 2009—June 2010. Peter thought perhaps it would be more fitting this Memorial Day weekend to use this space to remember the Veterans to whom the Museum is dedicated and leave his farewell remarks for the June dinner meeting. Memorial Day was officially proclaimed on 5 May 1868 by General John Logan, national commander of the Grand Army of the Republic, in his General Order No. 11, and was first observed on 30 May 1868.*

**HEADQUARTERS GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC  
General Orders No.11, WASHINGTON, D.C., May 5, 1868**

The 30th day of May, 1868, is designated for the purpose of strewing with flowers or otherwise decorating the graves of comrades who died in defense of their country during the late rebellion, and whose bodies now lie in almost every city, village, and hamlet church-yard in the land. In this observance no form of ceremony is prescribed, but posts and comrades will in their own way arrange such fitting services and testimonials of respect as circumstances may permit.

We are organized, comrades, as our regulations tell us, for the purpose among other things, "of preserving and strengthening those kind and fraternal feelings which have bound together the soldiers, sailors, and marines who united to suppress the late rebellion." What can aid more to assure this result than cherishing tenderly the memory of our heroic dead, who made their breasts a barricade between our country and its foes? Their soldier lives were the reveille of freedom to a race in chains, and their deaths the tattoo of rebellious tyranny in arms. We should guard their graves with sacred vigilance. All that the consecrated wealth and taste of the nation can add to their adornment and security is but a fitting tribute to the memory of her slain defenders. Let no wanton foot tread rudely on such hallowed grounds. Let pleasant paths invite the coming and going of reverent visitors and fond mourners. Let no vandalism of avarice or neglect, no ravages of time testify to the present or to the coming generations that we have forgotten as a people the cost of a free and undivided republic. If other eyes grow dull, other hands slack, and other hearts cold in the solemn trust, ours shall keep it well as long as the light and warmth of life remain to us.

Let us, then, at the time appointed gather around their sacred remains and garland the passionless mounds above them with the choicest flowers of spring-time; let us raise above them the dear old flag they saved from dishonor; let us in this solemn presence renew our pledges to aid and assist those whom they have left among us a sacred charge upon a nation's gratitude, the soldier's and sailor's widow and orphan.

It is the purpose of the Commander-in-Chief to inaugurate this observance with the hope that it will be kept up from year to year, while a survivor of the war remains to honor the memory of his departed comrades. He earnestly desires the public press to lend its friendly aid in bringing to the notice of comrades in all parts of the country in time for simultaneous compliance therewith.

Department commanders will use efforts to make this order effective.  
By order of  
JOHN A. LOGAN,  
Commander-in-Chief

- \*\*\*\*\*  
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★  
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★ Robert Dickson, Morro Bay  
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★ Jonathan, Heather, & Christopher Wilson, Atascadero  
★  
\*\*\*\*\*
- Welcome to our New Members*  
Total Membership—503
- Jean Coulson  
Larry Fisher, Paso Robles  
Henry & Betty Hall, Cayucos  
Mike Levine, Paso Robles  
Kenny & Toni Moore, Atascadero  
Wayne & Marcea Petersen, Templeton  
Greg & Sarah Saeaz/Coniglio, Paso Robles  
Vicki Tovar, Paso Robles





**June 9 Program— Elgen Long**  
**Author, Pilot, Adventurer**  
*George Marrett, Program Chairman*

Elgen M. Long was born in McMinville, Oregon. At nine years old, his first memory of Earhart's disappearance came from selling newspapers headlining the event. With his parents' permission and the exigencies of World War II, he joined the U.S. Navy and began a lifelong career in aviation: first as a radio operator, then as a navigator, and finally as a pilot. As of this date, he has accumulated over sixty years of experience and nearly 45 thousand hours of flight.

During World War II, he flew over one hundred combat patrols in US Navy PB4Y and PB2Y seaplanes throughout the Pacific theatre. On the date of cease-fire in August 1945, his plane was directed to fly over all Japanese military installations on the island of Formosa (modern Taiwan) to see if the Japanese would shoot at them or honor the cease-fire. To this day he remembers thinking to himself "you have to be young and stupid to do this."

Elgen met his future wife on a blind date in Los Angeles in 1945 and the following year he and Marie Kurilich were married. After 57 wonderful years together Marie passed away in 2003.

Although WWII had ended, there were still many regional conflicts throughout the world and Elgen became involved in most of them, first as a radio operator, navigator, and for 40 years as a pilot. He also became an aircraft accident investigator for the Air-line Pilots Association.

In 1971 at age 44, Elgen became the first man to fly solo around the world over both Poles. The flight over the South Pole made him the first man to fly across Antarctica alone. It was the longest solo flight ever sanctioned by the Federation Aeronatique Internationale and for this feat Elgen won the Gold Air Medal in 1972. Elgen used an inertial navigation system on this flight, the first round-the-world flight over both poles using inertial navigation, and for this the Institute of Navigation named Elgen the outstanding practicing navigator for 1971. These are the top awards that can be presented for achievement in these two different disciplines.

Elgen and his wife Marie traveled the world interviewing the people still living that actually participated in Amelia's last flight. This effort resulted in the historic collection of Amelia Earhart data and interviews that now reside at the Seaword Foundation. Elgen and his wife published the book: "*Amelia Earhart: The Mystery Solved*" in 1999

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**Dinner Menu**  
**Wednesday, June 9, 2010**

**Barbequed Tri-Tip**

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**Salad**

**French Bread**

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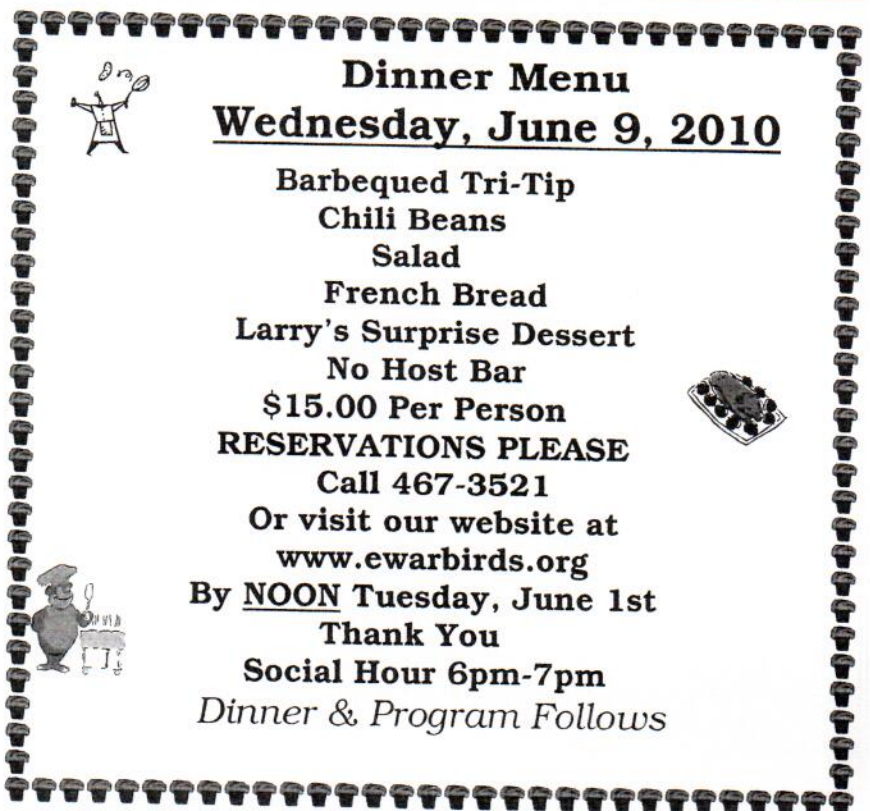
**[www.ewarbirds.org](http://www.ewarbirds.org)**

**By NOON Tuesday, June 1st**

**Thank You**

**Social Hour 6pm-7pm**

*Dinner & Program Follows*





# Movie Nite !

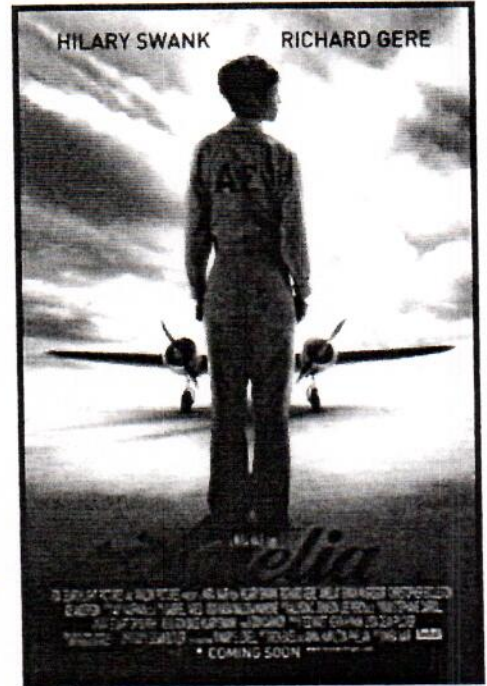
Wednesday - June 2

6:00pm - Pizza & Popcorn

6:30pm - Movie Time

## “Amelia”

**STARRING:** Hilary Swank, Richard Gere,  
Ewan McGregor, Christopher Eccleston  
**Directed by** Mira Nair



“Hilary Swank uncannily embodies my ideas about Earhart in director Mira Nair's "Amelia." She looks like her, smiles like her, evokes her. Swank is an actress who doesn't fit in many roles, but when she's right, she's right. The tousled hair, the freckles, the slim figure, the fitness, the physical carriage that says, "I know precisely who I am and I like it -- and if you don't, bail out." Not only was she the first person after Lindbergh to fly solo across the Atlantic, she even looked like him.” Roger Ebert

**Three Stars from Roger Ebert (2009 - 111 min.)**

### MOVIE BUFF'S QUIZ

In the film “Amelia” Hilary Swank’s character, Amelia Earhart finishes third in the first Santa Monica-to-Cleveland Women’s Air Derby in 1929, but does not explain why . Do any of you Amelia Earhart fans (or Hilary Swank fans, for that matter) know the answer? Why did the leading woman flyer of her time finish third in this race? Find the answer on Page 11.



## Docent Doings Betty Miller

Our Volunteers are the "Face" between the public and the Museum. Their helpfulness and sincerity make the visitors feel welcome and inspire them to want to return. We are lucky to have some outstanding men and women who are dedicated in sharing the Estrella Warbird Museum. Please join me in saying **"Thank You"** to our wonderful Docents and F-18 Simulator Operators!

**Freedom Hall** ( 26 Docents) Doris Atkinson, Mary Baiamonte, Hal Bauer, Dave Brooks, Ron Brooks, Bob Chambers, Gary Corippo, Jean Coulson, Wally Engle, John Gramentine, Bruce Hebron, Arnold Hermansen, Dave Highland, Forrest Johnson, Chuck Keezer, Mike Levine, Betty Miller, Chuck Miller, Gary Nemeth, Wayne Rice, Paul Sacks, Tom Salmon, Mary Schwartz, Stan Stenstrom, Russ Surber, and Dick Umphrey.

**Group Tour Docents** (7 from our Freedom Hall Docent list plus 2 dedicated to Groups) Dave Brooks, Ron Brooks, Gary Corippo, John Gramentine, Mike Levine, Betty Miller, Chuck Miller, Charmaine Peckinpaugh and Don Peckinpaugh.

**F-18 Simulator Operators** now number 7: Hugh Early, Jim Herman, Chuck Keezer, Mike Levine, Steve Mowry, Tom Salmon and Bob Spielman(currently on extended vacation)

**Woodland Display** (13 Docents): Bill Kitchen, Pat Kitchen, Katie Kuyper, Howard Love, Toni Moore, Kenny Moore, Wayne Petersen, Jim Stainbrook, Pete Snyder, Carol Verstuyft, Dan Verstuyft, Peter Visel, and John Whitworth.

**We need MORE VOLUNTEERS!** Even with our improving numbers we still have some gaps in our scheduling. Docents have trips, visiting family, and illness. On a 31 day Month we have **65 Regular shifts to be covered!** Fridays and Saturdays require 2 Docents and 1 Sim Operator in Freedom Hall and 2 Docents in the Woodland Display. Sundays require 1 Docent and 1 Sim Operator in Freedom Hall and 1 Docent in the Woodland Display. Add in the Group Tours during M-T-W-TH which utilize the same Docents from the Freedom Hall list and you can see why we need more F-18 Sim Operators, Woodland Display Docents and Freedom Hall Docents to keep the schedule covered. Please join this great group and volunteer to be part of the TEAM!



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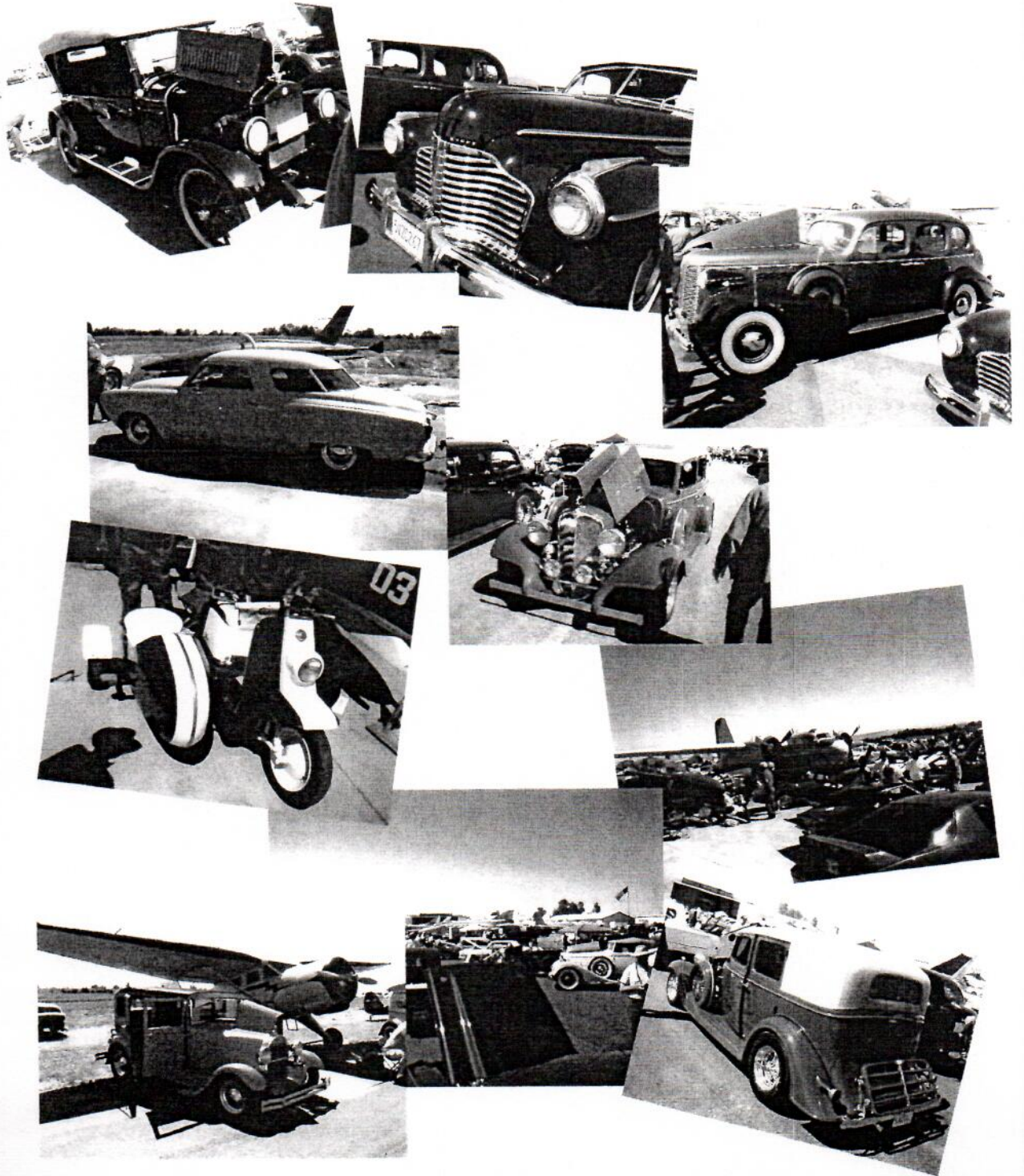
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# Warbirds, Wings, & Wheels II

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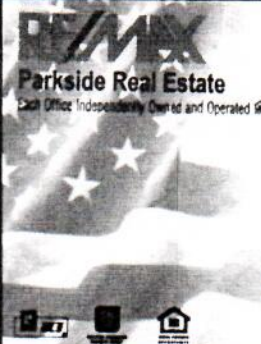
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# MUSEUM MUSINGS

By Betty Miller, Museum Curator

## Museum Musings

By Betty Miller

Congratulations to our newly elected Officers of the Board of Directors! President-**Rob Kinnear**, Vice President - **Wayne Rice**, Secretary - **Margi Bauer** and Treasurer - **Rosemary Netto**. Thank you to outgoing President Peter Visel, for his service over the past year.

Your Board of Directors includes the above Officers, as well as Directors **Ron Boyte**, **Ron Brooks**, **Gary Corippo**, **Dave Highland**, **Mike Kelley**, **Betty Miller**, and **Peter Visel**.

If you missed the 2<sup>nd</sup> **Annual Warbirds Wings & Wheels** event held at the Museum on Saturday, May 8<sup>th</sup>, you missed over 280 really fantastic vehicles! Featured Guest, Parnelli Jones was a most gracious celebrity and cheerfully visited with all the visitors who came up for autographs. The weather was wonderful, with blue skies and just a hint of a gentle breeze to keep everyone comfortable. Don't miss next year's event. The 2011 Chairman, **Howard Love**, is already starting the planning process!

One of the side benefits from all the new visitors to the Museum that day was an influx of artifacts that have been donated. In addition, member and Docent John Gramentine has allowed the Museum to display some very interesting World War One uniforms. Be sure to visit YOUR Museum to see these!

We recently had nine folks successfully complete a CPR and AED class taught at the Museum by members of the Paso Robles Fire Department. These new graduates are: **Margi Bauer**, **Rick Brandt**, **Ron Brooks**, **Sue Dollemore**, **Wally Engle**, **Forrest Johnson**, **Rob Kinnear**, **Joe Marasse**, and **Thom Schulz**. Congratulations!

What is an "AED"? A E D stands for Automated External Defibrillator. This is a portable unit in a wall hung case and when removed and hooked up to a possible heart attack victim literally talks you through CPR and automatically diagnoses the potentially life threatening cardiac arrhythmias of Ventricular Fibrillation and Ventricular Tachycardia in a patient and is able to treat them through defibrillation. Defibrillation is the application of electrical therapy which stops the arrhythmia, allowing the heart to reestablish an effective rhythm. Your Museum now has a total of **6 AED** units. They are located in the Restoration Hangar, Hangar One, Thomson Hall, Freedom Hall, The Brooks Building and the Woodland Auto Display Building. Take a moment to locate these the next time you are in one of the buildings. Your life or that of another depends on it!

Better yet, sign up for the **next CPR Class** on **Wednesday, June 30<sup>th</sup>** in the Research Library from **8 am to 1pm**. **Cost is \$25.00 pp** and you need to make reservations in advance since we only have 5 slots available. Call George Taylor at **805-448-7402 ASAP** to hold your seat!


## -- GIFT SHOP GOSSIP --

**Jackie Brooks, Gift Shop Mgr.**

Your Museum's Gift Shop continues to be a great place to buy gifts for friends and family who share your love for airplanes, the military, and our great Nation. Whether it's a flight jacket, a tee-shirt, a book by George Marrett (who would probably be delighted to sign it for you) or any of the other great authors who write about our passion for flying, the Gift Shop is the place to come and find that "special gift".

To remind, the Gift Shop is open from 5:45 to 6:45 PM every month before the Dinner Meetings. Invite a friend or neighbor to join you for the dinner and bring them by to see what is available, and remember, you and your guests visit the Museum for free. As always, we need volunteers to work in the Gift Shop on Fridays and weekends. If you are interested in giving some time to help support your Museum please give me a call at 227-0440 and I'll get back to you as soon as I can, I promise.





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## Goodies from the Car Show



## MOVIE BUFF'S QUIZ THE ANSWERS

At the last stop before the final leg of the race to Cleveland, Earhart and her friend Ruth Nichols were tied for first. Nichols took off right before Earhart, but her aircraft clipped a tractor on the runway and flipped over. Instead of taking off, Earhart ran to Ruth's plane to drag her to safety. After Earhart was sure that Nichols was not seriously hurt, she took off for Cleveland but finished third largely due to her delayed take-off.



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"Of course," Peter said, "ground looping could be a problem."



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