

The Estrella Warbirds Museum

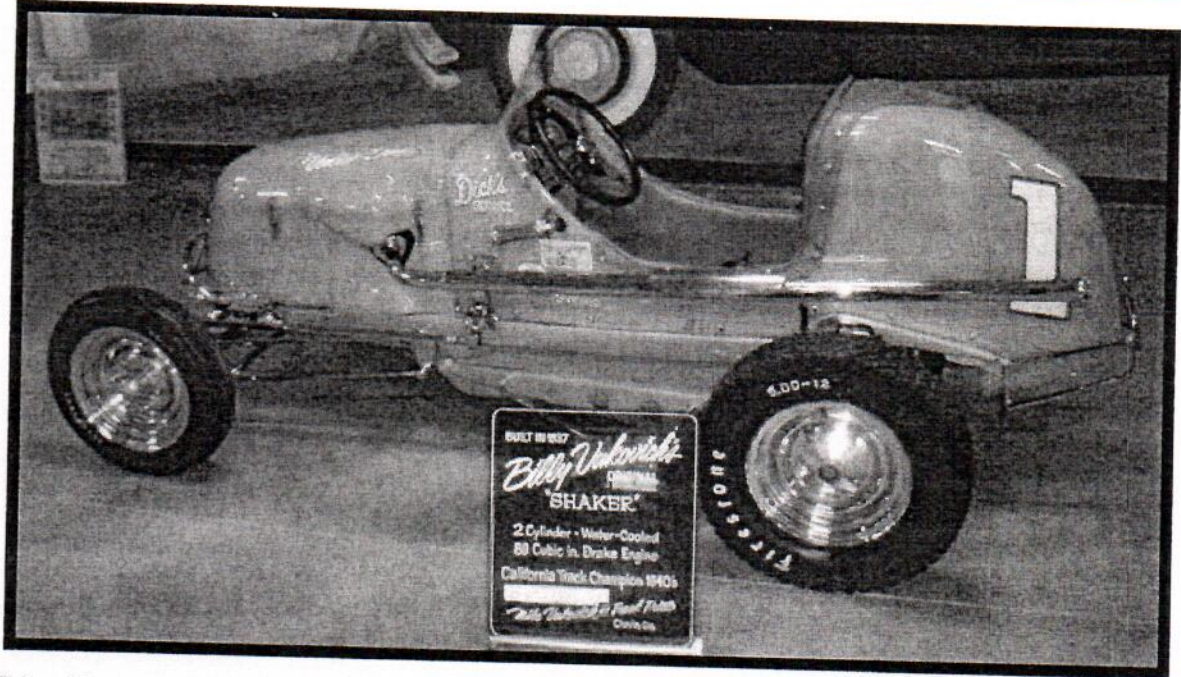
The Eagle

Honoring the Past—Inspiring the Future

Volume 15, Number ¹⁰ Paso Robles, California—October 2010



VOL: XXI-~~10~~ 10



This midget race car, in conjunction with the owner/driver, Bill Vukovich, Sr., possibly was the most famous combination in post WWII short track racing. Vukovich purchased the car from Fred Gearhart in 1941, painted it bright red and named it "Old Ironsides" and when racing resumed after WWII Vukovich was ready. Racing mostly on the west coast, the combo won the United Racing Association (URA) championships in both 1946 and 1947 even though this 2 cylinder Drake powered car raced against the flathead V-8 Fords and often against the dual overhead cam 4 cylinder Offenhauser power plants that Dale Drake also helped design and manufacture. It is our understanding that this car, with Bill Vukovich at the wheel, and with the help of his mechanic brother Mike, won the equivalent of approximately \$900,000 in 2009 prize money dollar value. You can see it and other legends of American racing at the EWM's Woodland Family Automobile Display.

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Words to Live By from the Old Curmudgeon

The scientific theory I like best is that the rings of Saturn are composed entirely of lost airline luggage.

— Mark Russell

①



**“Thoughts From the Flight Line”
Musings by our President, Rob Kinnear**

As mentioned in our last newsletter, our September dinner meeting aimed at honoring our 500 Flight members and awards to the volunteers who keep the Museum going.

The 500 Flight included speakers for the dinner meeting, Bob Dickson and Hank Hall and Wayne Bloechi, Michael Bruck & Jean Boenish, Ray & Pam Derby, Mike Fitzsimmons, Jeff & Christine Hodge, Jonathan Riegler & Kristine Hunter, Wayne Lyons, Kenny & Toni Moore, William & Jenna Moran, Greg Saenz & Sarah Conigilo. Nineteen people turn in their applications to join our Museum at the time we were looking to break the 500 Member level. Even if we were not looking to surpass that level, it is always gratifying to have more people join us.

The volunteer awards were as follows. The Extra Mile award went to James Messineo. The Founders Award was given to Jackie Brooks. John Edell got the Top Gun Award. Directors Choice went to Jeanne Thiebaud. Grunt of the Year was given to Gary Corippo. Dick Woodland received Member of the Year. These people are always there for us, and it is an honor to have them as a member of our Museum.

Bob Dickson and Hank Hall gave a very interesting and poignant talk about their experiences as World War II B-17 crewmembers. For the first time in my memory the whole audience stood and applauded at the end.

Elsewhere at the Museum, work is going along well with the Woodland Building addition. The exterior walls and interior framing is up, and the electrical is going in. This project is moving right along. We finally got the wings for the SAAB Lanser jet fighter. We have had the fuselage for some time. But, it is hard to move one piece swept wings. A special steel holder had to be built to put it on a truck. It still qualified as a wide load and we had to hire qualified drivers to precede and follow the truck when it came here. This gives us another project aircraft to rebuild.

So, if you want to get your hands dirty working on one of our projects, come on out one of these Saturdays and join us.

Rob Kinnear
EWM President

**Dinner Menu
Wednesday, October 6, 2010**



**Baked Chicken
Roasted Red Potatoes
Seasonal Vegetables
Green Salad
Rolls
Dessert**

**No Host Bar
\$15.00 Per Person**

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**By NOON Tuesday, August 3rd
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**Social Hour 6pm-7pm
Dinner & Program Follows**



Dinner Catering by
Larry Eastwood of Vic's Cafe

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**October 6, 2010 Program— Jerry Dietz
With the 86th Infantry "Blackhawk" Division
in Central Europe**

Jerry Deitz was born in Brooklyn, New York in 1925 and enlisted in Army Specialized Training Reserve Program (ASTRP) in July 1943. He then headed off for basic training at Fort Benning, Georgia. By the first of 1944 the ASTRP program was cut back and he was assigned to 86th Infantry Division as a rifleman. Later in the year Jerry moved to Camp San Luis Obispo, California in the headquarters for Amphibious Training. By December the division was fully packed and waterproofed for trip to a Pacific base when they were notified the division was going to the European Theatre as additional manpower was need there. By February 1945 they were committed to the battle for Central Europe by relieving 8th Division on the Rhine River. For three months Jerry was in a full scale combat role breaking up the Ruhr Pocket and then on into Bavaria winding up inside Austria on Victory-In-Europe (VE) day, May 8, 1945. Jerry received one Battle Star, the Combat Infantry Badge and Bronze Star Medal for his combat action.

After victory in Europe, his division shipped to New York area at Camp Kilmer, New Jersey. Then after a great furlough and return to Camp Kilmer, the division regrouped at Camp Gruber, Oklahoma. In August 1945 the atomic bombs were dropped and the division was sent to San Francisco area for deployment to the Pacific Theatre. They arrived at the Philippines and disembarked in Luzon. For the next six months he was engaged in training new Philippine Army Units and Jerry finally made it to the rank of Platoon Sgt, Communications Platoon, 3rd Bn. 341st Inf. Regt. 86th Inf. Div. After that tour he was shipped home and discharged at Ft. Dix, New Jersey in April 1946.

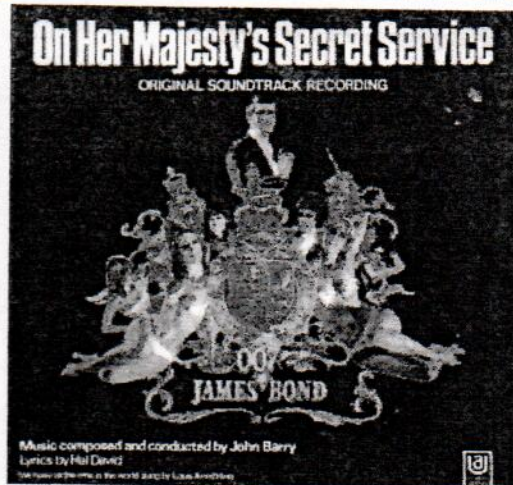
Back home Jerry attended City College of New York, received a BEE, and was elected to National Honor Society of Electrical Engineers. After college he was employed as a field engineer for the Philco Corporation and saw overseas service in Korea (Aug 1950 to Sept 1951) with the US Air Force and taught Air Corp tech personnel outside Tokyo. When he returned to the states in May 1952, he was still employed with Philco, but assigned to the electronics area of the New York Naval Shipyard, working on Sonar and Communication Shipboard Systems.

Jerry got married and started school in the evening working on a Masters Degree in Industrial Engineering. For three years he worked for the EDO Corporation as an engineer in the Sonar Design Section. Jerry received an MIE from NYU and moved to Los Angeles going to work with the Librascope Division of General Precision Equipment Corporation (GPI) in Glendale, California, as an Engineer in their Shipboard Group.

For 32-years he was employed at the Librascope Division of GPI which became a Division of the Singer Company and became Vice President of Engineering in 1968. He retained that position until he retired in 1989. Upon retirement Jerry moved to Los Osos where he participates in the 86th Infantry Division Veterans Group, and heads up the Veterans History Project at the Central Coast Veterans Memorial Museum (CCVMM) in San Luis Obispo.

George Marrett
Program Chairman





Movie Nite !

☞ PLEASE NOTE ☐

MOVIE NIGHT IS ON THURSDAY THIS MONTH ONLY—CALENDAR CONFLICT

Thursday—October 14th

6:00pm - Pizza & Popcorn

6:30pm - Movie Time

On Her Majesty's Secret Service

STARRING: Diana Rigg, Telly Savalas, George Lazenby

Usual globe-hopping Bond vs. Blofeld plot with a novel twist: 007 Bond ends up marrying a Spanish contessa. Dazzling action sequences in Switzerland are some of the best – including a car rally on ice! Some fans consider this the best of the 007 series. George Lazenby *isn't* Connery, but he's darned good and the production makes up for it!



★ ★ ★ 1/2 Maltin (1969 – 142 min.) (Adult scenes)

MOVIE BUFF'S QUIZ

George Lazenby would make only one Bond movie. The most popular explanation for his banishment is that "On Her Majesty's Secret Service" was a major box office flop. Is that true?

And, for the lovers of real movie trivia, extra points if you can name three film techniques used in "On Her Majesty's Secret Service" that make their first appearance in the James Bond series of films. Finally, why is the fate of the villain (Blofeld) and his henchwoman (Irma Bunt) in this film unique in the Bond series?

Docent Doings

By Betty Miller & Jeanne Thiebaud

We still have a great need for **Docents** for Freedom Hall and the Woodland Auto Display! August and September found us with many empty spots to fill because of visiting friends and family, personal vacation trips, illness, and in a couple of cases forgetting to enter the date of a shift onto personal home calendars !(Hey, it happens to all of us!!)

Our dedicated crew was able to cover most of the shifts, but many worked increased hours and back-to-back shifts. We must have more coverage to remain open! No Experience is required, and you do not have to memorize dates!!. We will train you! Please contact Docent Coordinator, **Jeanne Thiebaud** at 238-3897 to set up a training schedule if you are interested.

Simulator Operators are still in short supply. You do have to have computer skills, but we have some great Sim Operators who can train you! Please contact Sim Operators **Mike Levine** at 712-8336; or **Jim Herman** at 400-7386 or Jeanne Thiebaud, Docent Coordinator, to set up a training schedule.

Betty & Jeanne

Supplies for Soldiers

Supporting The Men & Women Who Go In Harm's Way

At the October dinner meeting there will be a collection box for items to be sent to men and women in all branches of the military from San Luis Obispo County who are serving in combat zones. *Supplies for Soldiers*, a local group organized to show our troops that they have support at home, currently ships much needed personal items to 80-150 local troops. EWM was created to demonstrate that our community does not forget those who have sacrificed for our Nation, and by bringing along to the Monthly Dinner a few of the items listed below you can make a tremendous difference to one of our own and show that we do remember and do care. We hope that this will become a regular part of our Monthly Dinner program and the committee will keep you informed on what has been collected and what is most needed.

Items that are most requested are

Snacks (no chocolate)
Dried Fruit
Flavored Coffee Creamer (small)
Hard Candy
Red Vines Licorice

Sunflower Seeds
Sweetened Powdered drink Mixes
Beef Jerky
ANY small individual snack packages
Gum

Comfort Items

DVD's (old & new)
CD's (old & new)
Disposable Cameras
Handheld Electronic Games
Misty Mates, Bandana Coolers/Cool-Ties
Batteries (AA, AAA, C)

Glad Ware Plastic Containers
Glade Stick-Up Room Deodorizers
Notes of Encouragement
Small Battery Operated Fan
Small Squirt Bottles
Swifter Dusters

The items collected at the Monthly Dinner meetings will be sent by Supplies for Soldiers directly to the men and women from San Luis Obispo County who are on the front lines in Iraq and Afghanistan.

For more information on the committee's work or what you can do to help contact Gary Nemeth at garysam@charter.net.

George Taylor
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Betty Miller
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Gary Nemeth



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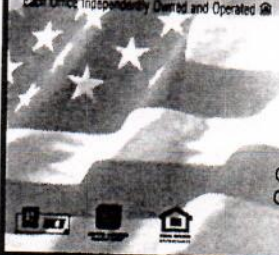

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MUSEUM MUSINGS

By Betty Miller, Museum Curator

The Museum has continued to acquire some outstanding artifacts. The most recent additions have been a complete WW I Nurses Uniform, two WW I "Trench Art" items, in the form of two brass shells made into matching vases, and a complete WW II US Navy "WAVE" uniform, plus a wonderful collection of Spanish American War photos, donated by new member **Vernetta Semon**.

Associate Curator, **John Gramentine**, has graciously made some of his personal WW I & WW II artifacts available on temporary loan to the Museum. These include authentic (not reproductions!) WW I enlisted uniforms from the German Army, French Army, and US Army to join our WW I Officers uniform donated by EWM member and past Board Member, **Ed Chidlaw**. John Gramentine is also in the process of setting up a new WW II display with an authentic Japanese military uniform and related memorabilia.

Carol Weiss, Curator Assistant, has been working on framing some of our previously unframed photos, and will be helping Betty to redo some of our wall displays to better feature our ever increasing collections for our visitor's enjoyment.

Work continues on entering our complete collection of memorabilia, photos, prints, uniforms and large artifacts into the Past Perfection Museum Collection software data base. Without a designated data-entry person familiar with the artifacts and the software we are still backlogged, but beginning to see the clearing in the forest!

Betty

-- GIFT SHOP GOSSIP --

Jackie Brooks, Gift Shop Mgr.

First, I want to thank all of the folks who spent time helping, *one way or another*, with Airport Day on Saturday, September 11. Specifically, a real "tip o' the hat" to **Margi Bauer, Dave Brooks, Ron Brooks, Ruth Dickey, Linda and Arnold Hermansen, Toni Moore, Nancy Spitzer, and June Cunningham**. The time spent by these faithful Volunteers truly paid off this year. We had a great response at both our Booth and in the Gift Shop.

I hate to keep harping on this, but do remember that the Gift Shop is open from 5:45 to 6:45 PM every month before the Dinner Meetings. If you are hosting first-time guests pick up a drink at the bar and then bring them by for a visit. Not only can they see what is available for purchase, the Museum is open and you and your guests may tour its exhibits for free.

I'm hesitant to end this with my usual plea for volunteers to work with us in the Gift Shop but the truth is we still need help on Fridays and weekends. Volunteering in the Gift Shop isn't an onerous task, in fact, our regular volunteers think it's a fun way to spend a few hours each week while giving an important assist to the Museum. So, if you are interested in volunteering 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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MOVIE BUFF'S QUIZ THE ANSWERS



This is not true. In fact, the film performed admirably, out-grossing its nearest competitor almost two to one at the U.S. box office where, according to Variety, it was the most popular film in the country for four solid weeks. It generated enough income at the box-office to claim ninth position on the box office chart for the year 1970. The persistent belief that it was a flop arises from its disappointing showing in comparison to the previous three Sean Connery Bond films, all of which made more than 100 million dollars worldwide. Lazenby's Bond could only produce a gross of 87 million dollars worldwide.

"On Her Majesty's Secret Service" is the first in the Bond series that uses slow motion photography (when Bond is knocked out in his bedroom). Flashback, also new to the series, appears later when Bond remembers Tracy being captured. Finally, after the opening action sequence and just before the titles appear, Bond looks into the camera and says, "This never happened to the other fellow," an intentionally comedic reference to Lazenby's replacement of the even then iconic Sean Connery. This marks the only time in the series that the "fourth wall" (between the actor and the audience) is broken.

This is the only James Bond movie where both the main villain and his sidekick survive and are neither captured, nor arrested, nor killed.



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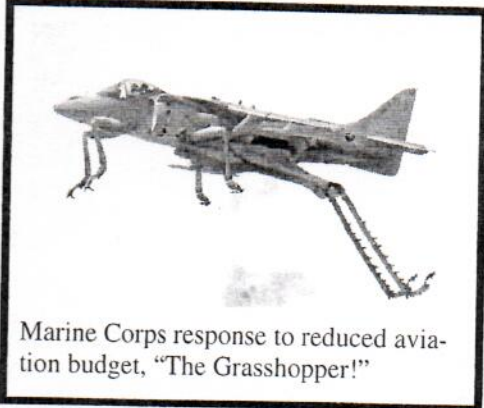
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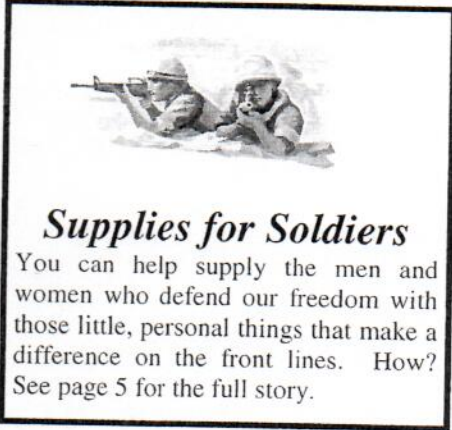


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