

COMBAT AIR MUSEUM

→ → → Plane Talk → → →

The Official Newsletter of the Combat Air Museum

June/July 2003 • Vol. 19, No. 6

Celebrity pancake flippers entertain the crowd at our annual fund-raiser

Pancake eaters were greeted with a bright, sunny morning on April 26 as CAM held its first fund-raiser of 2003 with our annual Celebrity Pancake Feed. We collected 280 tickets during the four and one-half hour feed and raised over \$690 for the Museum. **Bob Carmichael** of Topeka's **Perkins Restaurant and Bakery** provided the griddle, pancake mix, sausages, and syrup.

We had a good number of celebrity flippers this year, including several members of **Topeka's City Council**. Mayor **Butch Felker** and council members **Lisa Stubbs**, **John Nave**, **Gary Price**, **William Haynes**, and **Jeff Preisner** were either flipping pancakes or warming and serving sausage links. Talk show host **Jim Cates** and **Eric Holcomb** of **KMAJ 1440 AM** radio and weatherman **Steve Beylon** of **KSNT TV Channel 27** also did time with a spatula.

In response to an earlier on-air challenge, Steve and Eric took part in a pancake flipping (catching) contest. Bob Carmichael served as official flipper while Steve and Eric were out by the tables with

paper plates. Height, distance, and number of mid-air rotations and, of course, catching the pancakes, all seemed to play some part in the contest, although the rules seemed a bit loose. It was a real crowd pleaser.

Alexandra Bixler, Miss Topeka 2002, and **Carol Toland**, Miss Capitol City 2003, took their turns behind the griddle, restoring some decorum to the food line. Shawnee County Commissioner **Ted Ensley** and State Representative **Lana Gordon** also came to help out.

See Pancakes, con't. on page 2



City Council members John Nave and Jeff Preisner



Left to right: Bob Carmichael, Steve Beylon, Carol Toland, Butch Felker, Eric Holcomb (partially hidden), Lisa Stubbs and Alexandra Bixler

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Museum Hours

Monday - Saturday

9 A.M. - 4:30 P.M.

Last Admission 3:30 P.M.

Sunday 10 A.M. - 4:30 P.M.

Last Admission 3:30 P.M.

Plane Talk, the official newsletter of Combat Air Museum of Topeka, Kansas, is published bi monthly. Your questions and comments are welcomed. Any information for **Plane Talk** should be submitted to CAM office.

Plane Talk goes on a new schedule

Beginning with this issue of *Plane Talk*, we will start publishing the Museum's newsletter on a bimonthly basis. Future issues of *Plane Talk* will be published on even-numbered months.

Primary consideration for going to a bimonthly newsletter is financial. We receive newsletters from other aviation museums around the US, and the ones we receive are all quarterly publications. We felt this was too long between issues for us, though. Another consideration for going bimonthly deals with articles for the newsletter. Sometimes we have more articles than a monthly issue can hold, and other times we are looking for material that will fill a newsletter. We expect the bimonthly publication will help even out the articles.

Some readers have told us they liked the issues when we published the wartime diaries and letters of servicemen. We have used all such materials currently in our archives. But we have a number of vintage photographs about which historical articles can be written. The bimonthly issues will help provide time to research these photos in order to write an appropriate article. →

Pancakes, con't. from page 1

Folks had a good time and stayed to enjoy the event and visit with friends or relatives. We are always hoping for larger turnouts, but we find this season opener well worth the time and preparation to put on.

Thanks to all our Celebrity Flippers and to our volunteers for supporting and putting on another successful Pancake Feed. →

Join the Combat Air Museum!

Visitors

During April
 the Museum had
 1067 visitors
 from 29 states
 and
 Belgium
 Canada
 France
 India
 Turkey

→ → →

2003 Events Calendar

June

7 - Swing Dance

16-19 - Aviation Education Class

26-30 - Fireworks Stand

July

1-4 - Fireworks Stand

7-10 - Aviation Education Class

August

4-7 - Aviation Education Class

September

13 - Panther Dedication

20 - Swing Dance

October

25 - Model Contest

→ → →

Dodge Power Wagon heads for its new home in Lawrence



A Dodge Power Wagon that sat between Hangars 602 and 604 has gone to a new owner in Lawrence, KS. **Stephen Craig**, a Lifetime Member who donated the MiG-15 to CAM, acquired the Power Wagon. Over the years Stephen has collected vintage vehicles and aircraft. A visit to his hangar at the Lawrence municipal airport is like visiting a small museum. He has several vintage motorcycles in the hangar, all of which add a nice touch to his World War II Grumman F4F-3 Wildcat fighter.

The Power Wagon between the hangars was a model B-1PW126. This PW series was produced with minor refinements from 1946-1968. Our example was built in 1949.

Other than the manufacturer's data plate and a couple of dashboard data plates showing gear and speed setups, we found no military data plates on the vehicle. We hold in our archives a Department of the Army and Air Force Technical Manual/Technical Order titled "Military Vehicles," dated February 1953. The Power Wagon configuration we had does not appear in this manual.

Like the Half-track we sold last December, we had to look at the feasibility of putting time and resources into ever restoring the Power Wagon. And like the Half-track, the time and money necessary to restore it would serve a far better purpose going toward the restoration of an aircraft or other aviation artifact. Allowing the vehicle to continue to sit exposed to the elements until such time monies might ever become available was not an option. The condition of the Power Wagon made it a liability. We suspected visitors climbed in and on the vehicle, as we would come in after a weekend

and find its doors open or its hood latches undone, and there was a lot of rusty, jagged metal on which people could get hurt. So we made the decision to remove the Power Wagon from the collection. →

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June / July 2003 Calendar of Events

Saturday, June 7
USO Swing Dance

\$10.00 per person
6:30 p.m. – Doors Open
7:30 – 10:30 p.m. – Dancing

Monday – Thursday,
June 16-19

Aviation Education Class

Jean Wanner Education

Conference Center

9 – 11:30 a.m.

\$30.00 per Student

Thursday – Monday
June 26-30

Fireworks Stand

July Calendar of Events

There is no Membership

Luncheon in July.

The next Luncheon is

Monday August 11.

It will be a potluck
luncheon.

Friday – Monday
July 1-4

Fireworks Stand

→ → →

New Supporters

Neal Baugman

**Renewing
Supporters**

Mark Bauerle

Danny San Romani

Harlan Sweeten

→ → →



Andrea Broadbent, Becky Abrams and teacher Susan Sittenauer respond to a comment on the presentation about the US Government's response to the Holocaust.

Seaman High students present their Kansas History Day projects at our Membership Luncheon

Our guest presenters at the April Membership Luncheon were six students from Topeka's **Seaman High School**, accompanied by their teacher **Susan Sittenauer**. All juniors, the students gave presentations on topics they entered in this year's Kansas History Day competition.

This annual competition is administered by the Kansas State Historical Society with support from the Eisenhower Foundation. The competition is open to public and private schools statewide for students in grades 6 through 12. They compete in junior and senior categories as individuals and groups, performances, documentaries, exhibits, and papers.

Our presenters had recently completed the local competition. This year's theme was "Rights and Responsibilities in History." **Amy Broadbent** and **Kristi Vinduska** presented the "26th Amendment: Old Enough to Die, Old Enough to Vote." Their topic dealt with the Constitutional Amendment giving 18 year olds the right to vote. Amy and Kristi used a storyboard exhibit for their presentation. They built the three-panel exhibit boards and then posted key photos and text regarding the history and process that brought the 26th Amendment into being.

Bret Parry and **Dustin Damme** gave an audio-visual presentation on the history of the Tuskegee Airmen, African-American fighter pilots of World War II, who fought tremendous bigotry and racial prejudice to become a renowned fighter unit of the 15th Air Force. Their presentation used a state-of-the-art computer-generated video that Bret and Justin created and produced. Using vintage photos and film

Kids, come join the fun at our Aviation Education Classes

Our **Aviation Education Classes** will be held in June, July and August at the Museum. The class is designed for young people ages 7 to 12.

Students will learn the fundamentals of flight and enjoy some great field trips to aviation-related locations around Forbes Field. These include visits to the 190th Air Refueling Wing, Air National Guard, 108th Aviation, Army National Guard and more. Cost is \$30 per student. Call the Museum at 862-3303 to register today. →



Bret Parry and Dustin Damme take a question about their Tuskgee Airmen presentation.



Susan Sittenauer, Amy Broadbent and Kristi Vinduska with the storyboard exhibit on the 26th Amendment.

footage, they added their narratives as well as background music on the video.

Andrea Broadbent and **Becky Abrams** gave an audiovisual presentation about the "United States Response to the Holocaust." They addressed how the United States government seemingly failed to recognize and act on the reports of German concentration and death camps in Europe during World War II, even though such reports were coming out of Europe prior to the US entry into the War. Andrea and Becky used a slide presentation with a cassette

tape for the audio portion. They created the slides, and narrated the tape that was keyed to each slide shown on the screen. They also included a soundtrack to their tape.

From the local competition, Bret and Dustin, and Andrea and Becky qualified for the state competition at the Eisenhower Center in Abilene, held in early May. While their entries did not qualify for the National competition, Susan Sittenauer did have a pair of senior students win the Senior Group Exhibit. They will compete in Washington, D.C. June 14-19. ➔

USO Swing Dance

Combat Air Museum

Hangar 602

Saturday, June 7, 2003

7:30 - 10:30 p.m.

Doors open 6:30 p.m.

Music by the Kings of Swing

\$10. per person

➔ ➔ ➔

Join the Combat Air Museum!

Your membership and support are
important to us.

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Airshow brings visitors to CAM planes and concession stands

For the **Wings Over Topeka** airshow, May 10 and 11, we towed six aircraft to the event site and operated a food concession and Gift Shop concession. The aircraft included our C-47 "Kilroy," the CH-53A Sea Stallion, F9F-5 Panther, F11F-1 Tiger "Blue Angel #5," and the T-28 Trojan. Kilroy and the Sea Stallion were open for tours for a \$1 donation. Initially, the food concession was set up under Kilroy's left wing and the Gift Shop stand under the right wing.

Saturday was a warm and cloudy day. The reported attendance was some 35,000 people. We did a good business all day at the food concession, Gift Shop and the two aircraft open for tours. People also gathered around the four other aircraft on exhibit, asking our volunteers many questions about the planes and sharing their own experiences with our aircraft types. The F11F-1 Tiger with its Blue Angels markings attracted a lot of visitors including some Blue Angels ground crew personnel, as the headliner act for the weekend was the US Navy Blue Angels. Our Tiger flew with the demonstration team in 1968.

The airshow included several military fly-bys and demonstration flights by Air Force and Navy bombers and fighters, plus several aerobatic demonstrations by civil pilots both singly and in teams. Two of our volunteers, **Marlene** and **Chuck Urban**, participated by

stretching a ribbon across two poles while a Super Pitts biplane cut the ribbon with its wing. The Blue Angels were the last act of the day and had to fly a low altitude demonstration because of the low cloud cover.

Sunday was a mostly clear, beautiful day. However, a cold front had gone through Topeka overnight and the day brought a very cool, stiff breeze from the northwest. It was stiff enough it began clearing the Gift Shop tables of their merchandise, causing volunteers and visitors alike to chase down items some distance from Kilroy. The remedy was to set up the tables along Kilroy's lee fuselage and erect a wind barrier. The food concession toughed it out under Kilroy's left wing.

Attendance was much different on Sunday with only 7,000 to 9,000. This was reflected in our sales and tour donations. Those who came out saw another fine day of flying performances, and the Blue Angels were able to fly their normal, high altitude formations.

The event brought in over \$2,200 in net proceeds for the Museum. The food stand raised \$1,000, the two aircraft garnered over \$770 from tour donations, and the Gift Shop netted some \$500. We want to thank all the volunteers who helped prepare for and work the airshow with the aircraft, food stand and Gift Shop stand. We think we made a good presence for our two-day's work. Thank you all who helped out. ➔



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