

COMBAT AIR MUSEUM

✈ ✈ ✈ Plane Talk ✈ ✈ ✈

The Official Newsletter of the Combat Air Museum

Forbes Field Topeka, Kansas

June / July 2011 • Vol. 27, No. 3



Some of our early morning patrons at the tables.

A beautiful day brought visitors to our 13th Pancake Feed

Although the number of tickets taken at the table were down from last year, our 18th Annual Celebrity Pancake Feed was still a big success. Our net proceeds totaled over \$4100 with expenses at \$910. The Silent Auction brought in over \$2300 of the net proceeds.

A steady stream of visitors came throughout the morning, and 23 celebrities were on hand to flip and serve pancakes, serve sausage, and mingle with the crowd. Youth from the **Beverly Bernardi Post Conservatory of Dance** and the **Soul-full Singers from Countryside Methodist Church** were featured entertainment. CAM member **Dan Pulliam** arranged for the Soul-full singers' first-time appearance at the feed. Beverly Post also held a version of *So You Think You Can Dance* with several of the guest celebrities. Then there was the ever-popular pancake catching contest. TV meteorologists and Washburn football players participated. This year, **Tom Hagen**, veteran of said contest, tried it blind folded.

We also had players from the **Washburn Ichabods** basketball, and soccer teams. Local televi-

sion and radio celebrities included **Ed Bloodsworth**, Meteorologist, and **Ben Bauman**, Anchor/Reporter, KTKA 49 ABC News; **Kelli Stegeman**, News Anchor, and **Tom Hagen**, Morning Meteorologist, KSNT 27 NBC News; and **Ryan Smith**, Reporter WIBW Channel 13 CBS News.

Members of the **190th Air Refueling Wing "Kansas Coyotes"** brought a KC-135R *Stratotanker* down the ramp, and visitors lined up to go through the "Pancakes," *con't. on page 4*

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Dick Trupp

Museum Hours

January 2 - February 28/29

Mon. - Sun. Noon - 4:30 P.M.

Last Entry Every Day is 3:30 P.M.

March 1 - December 31

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

Last Entry Every Day is 3:30 P.M.

Closed New Year's Day, Easter,
Thanksgiving, Christmas Day

Newsletter

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Your comments are welcomed.



National History Day presentations of "Debate and Diplomacy in History" are the presentations for the Membership Luncheon

Prior to our April Membership Luncheon, **Gene Howerter** made a special presentation to **Wayne Dodson** in recognition of his 15 years as Gift Shop Manager. Wayne turned 84 in March and said it was time to step down. Gene presented Wayne with a plaque of appreciation to a well deserved round of applause from the membership. He will continue as a Gift Shop volunteer, and the position of Gift Shop manager is currently open.

Gene then introduced **Susan Sittenauer**, a teacher at Seaman High School in north Topeka. Susan is in her 26th year of teaching and for the past several years has brought students from her Advanced Placement/Honors US History class as our guest speakers. As a class requirement students are required to enter the National History Day competition. This year, **Mark Johnson** and **Caroline Kabus**, both juniors, were our guest presenters. The theme for the competition was "Debate and Diplomacy in History." Mark's presentation was in the form of a DVD he produced. Caroline's entry was in the form of a storyboard exhibit. The students have to have a minimum of 30 sources for their topics.

Mark and Caroline had been through the first round of competition in February, and both were advancing to state competition held later in April. Our luncheon served as another tune up before the state round. Between competitions, the students can adjust and change their work if they wish.

Mark was first up, and his presentation was on the Hetch Hetchy dam and the controversy that has lasted over a century about the dam and Hetch Hetchy Reservoir. The Hetch Hetchy Valley, now underwater, was visited by John Muir in 1871. At that time, the valley was a pristine environment with the Tuolumne River running through it. Muir has been called the Father of National Parks in the United States. He was also the first president of the Sierra Club. Muir felt the Hetch Hetchy Valley should be left in its pristine condition. Native Americans had long used the valley because of its abundant wildlife, and they also picked acorns and harvested some of the grassland. Hetch Hetchy means grass with edible seeds. The first recorded visit to the valley by a white man was by Joseph Screech in 1850.



*Far left: Gene Howerter presents Wayne Dodson with a plaque of appreciation for 15 years as our Gift Shop Manager
Left: (Left to right) Gene, Mark Johnson, Caroline Kabus, Susan Sittenauer*

In the early 1880s, citizens and administrators of San Francisco considered Hetch Hetchy Valley as one of several possible locations for a city reservoir. By 1890 a more serious consideration was made to dam the valley to create a reservoir for the city. Also in 1890, Yosemite National Park was established, one of the first wilderness parks. The Hetch Hetchy Valley fell within the new park boundaries.

San Francisco Mayor James Phelan was a strong proponent of damming Hetch Hetchy Valley and locked horns with John Muir and the Sierra Club. Phelan held a conservationist view, that the valley, its resources and use should be managed. Muir was a preservationist. Leave it alone, in its natural state, as a work of God. In 1903 an application was made to the US Department of the Interior for a permit to use Hetch Hetchy Valley for water storage for greater San Francisco. Interior Secretary Ethan Hitchcock denied the request because of Hetch Hetchy being in a National Park. The city of San Francisco appealed the decision and lost. Applications were made again in 1905 and 1907. The fire after the 1906 San Francisco earthquake was used as a need for the Hetch Hetchy reservoir, but still John Muir and the Sierra Club campaigned against the applications, and they were not granted by the Department of the Interior.

Again, in 1908, a permit was requested for limited development of both Lake Eleanor and Hetch Hetchy Valley. This time, Secretary of Interior James Garfield approved the permit application. John Muir and the Sierra Club prepared to fight the permit and attempted to sway scheduled Congressional hearings to deny the proposed damming of Hetch Hetchy Valley. That November a new President, William Howard Taft, was elected, and a new Secretary of Interior, Richard Ballinger, entered in 1909. During 1909, congressional hearings over Hetch Hetchy Valley heard testimony from both proponents and opponents of damming the Valley. The year passed without a Congressional decision. In fact, Congressmen recommended that President Taft appoint a special commission to investigate the issue, which was done.

"History Day," con't. on page 6

New Supporters

Hope and Craig Brosius
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Fulton
John & Louise Hamilton
Alan, Jennifer, Cody, & Nathan
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Marion Raper
Danny San Romani
James Slover
Jay Stevenson
Dr. Rees Webber, Kathy, Karen,
Morgan, & Luke

→ → →

"Pancakes," con't. from page 1

large air refueling jet. Members of the **Rolling Thunder Chapter of the Military Vehicle Preservation Association** provided vintage military vehicles and equipment for visitors to look over.

Two pancake grills were in operation during the feed, and our celebrity flippers were once again under the tutelage of **Bob Carmichael of Perkins Restaurant**. The grills, pancake mix, sausage, butter and syrup were provided by Perkins. Board Chairman **Gene Howerter** got the orange juice, coffee, and milk as well as eating utensils, paper plates, and cups.

Gene was also responsible for garnering most of our celebrity flippers. **Deloris Zinc** used her association with Washburn University to add some sports figures to the list as well as some Washburn items for the silent auction. This year included a first, as we had our first state governor as a celebrity flipper. **Kansas Governor Sam Brownback** worked behind the grill. This was not his first time as a flipper, though. He has worked the grill before as a US Senator from the Sunflower State.

Marlene Urban, Mary Ann Kelly, and Dick Trupp did the preparations and set up for the silent auction, and **Mary Braun** filled a table at the auction with a variety of her excellent baked goods. We do not have a total number of items that were placed in the auction, but the crew setting up the tables for the pancake feed kept turning around to find rows of chairs with no tables as the silent auction crew added tables to their area. We used all of the Museum's tables before the set up was over, and **Gary Naylor** added several more of his own.

This year, the **Washburn University School of Nursing** asked if they could conduct free blood pressure and glucose screening. We set them up inside the *CH-53 Sea Stallion*, and a number of visitors took advantage of the screening in a unique setting.

We had a rain free, very pleasant and sunny day for the feed. Visitors enjoyed their meals and then spent time walking through the Museum, bidding on items in the silent auction, seeing the added attractions, and watching the entertainment. Because of the

good weather we were able to bring aircraft back into the hangar, and put everything back into place. Visitors arriving at the Museum by mid-afternoon on Saturday had only the lingering aroma of pancakes and sausage as clues that something else had been going on earlier in the day.

We thank everyone involved with this spring fund raiser, including our guests, our visitors, and especially our volunteers who gave their time and/or possessions to do the preparatory work, donate items to the silent auction, run the event, then take it all down and bring the aircraft back into the hangar.

Many preparations for the Pancake Feed begin weeks, and in some instances, months in advance. Much of the preparations is not readily seen by most people. Getting the celebrity flippers, working out the logistics, getting the entertainment, getting items for the silent auction all take place well in advance of the last Saturday in April, usually in the upstairs offices. Auction items start filling the Gift Shop office space a few weeks before the feed, but they are pretty much out of sight. The Wednesday before the event, five aircraft are pulled from hangar 602, and that is usually the first visible indication something is about to happen. Thursday is used to clean the hangar floor, and Friday the set up takes place. The final preps are made early Saturday morning, and by 7 A.M. we are ready to serve pancakes and sausage. After 18 pancake feeds and three silent auctions, we have a pretty fair system in place. But it does not work without the efforts of our volunteers and volunteer administrators. They are the driving force behind this Museum.

Mark your calendars. The Annual Celebrity Pancake Feed 19 will be Saturday, April 28, 2012.



Some of Beverly Post's dancers performing.

Right: Some animated talk takes place during a break. Foreground Lynn Jenkins and Bob Archer. Background: Ray Irwin and Bob Carmichael. Below: Governor Brownback collects some pancakes for a patron.



Our guest flipper's this year included:

Bob Carmichael, Head Flipper, Perkins Restaurant
 Governor Sam Brownback of Kansas
 Robert Archer, Topeka City Council Member
 Richard Barta, Shawnee County Sheriff
 William Beteta, Heartland Visioning
 Norton Bonaparte, City Manager of Topeka
 Shelly Buhler, Shawnee County Commissioner
 Bob Chipman, Washburn University Basketball Coach
 H R Cook, General Manager Kansas Expocentre
 Hal Dick, Washburn University Regent
 Jerry Farley, President, Washburn University
 Ted Ensley, Shawnee County Commissioner
 Lana Gordon, State Representative 52nd District
 Karen Hiller, Topeka City Council member
 Raymond & Nancy Irwin, Heartland Park, Topeka
 Lynn Jenkins, US Congressional Representative
 Eric Johnson, President, MTAA
 Colonel Ronald Krueger, Vice Wing Commander, 190th
 ARW
 Ann Mah, State Representative, 53rd District
 Belinda Post, Runner up Miss Kansas 2010, and a
 Kansas City Chiefs cheerleader
 Olivia Simmons, President and CEO, Visit Topeka, Inc.
 Larry Wolgast, Topeka City Council Member
 Kurt Young, President, Topeka Lodging Association



June/July Calendar of Events

June

Saturday and Sunday, June 4 & 5 Kansas 150th Armed Forces Celebration

8 A.M. - 6 P.M. Saturday

9 A.M. - 3 P.M. Sunday

Monday June 13

Membership Luncheon

Jean Wanner Education Conference Room

11:30 A.M.

LT Mike Riley, US Navy,
 from the Command and General Staff College,
 Fort Leavenworth,
 will be our speaker.

Monday - Thursday, June 20-23

Youth Aviation Education Class

Jean Wanner Education Conference Room

9 A.M. - 12 noon

July

There is no Membership Luncheon in July.
 The next luncheon will be August 8.

Monday - Thursday, July 11-14

Youth Aviation Education Class

Jean Wanner Education Conference Room

9 A.M. - 12 noon



"National History Day," con't. from page 3

Interior Secretary Ballinger visited Hetch Hetchy Valley in 1910 after reading the commission's report and suspended some of the development allowed by former Secretary Garfield. San Francisco demanded a hearing which it got in May. The issue had become a statewide debate and had also extended beyond the borders of California.

By 1913 the Hetch Hetchy Valley debate made the *New York Times*, and the paper opposed damming the Valley. The newspaper's commentary presented the issue as good versus evil. The issue was debated once again in Congress, now under President Woodrow Wilson. This time, the proponents prevailed and damming Hetch Hetchy Valley passed as the Raker Act of 1913. President Wilson signed the Act that December. John Muir had continued his fight for not damming Hetch Hetchy Valley for nearly two decades. He died in 1914.

Construction of the O'Shaughnessy Dam took place from 1919-1923. It opened in 1924 with the Hetch Hetchy Valley flooded. To date, no other dams have been built within national park boundaries. The Sierra Club still battles the dam and reservoir, calling for the dam's removal and restoration of Hetch Hetchy Valley to its former state. Mark's research showed that the reservoir and dam are just used for power generation, operated by Spring Valley Water Company. He also said it was never really used as a water source for San Francisco.

Mark was asked why he chose this topic. He replied he had visited Yosemite National Park when he was 15 years old. He really liked the Park and saw Hetch Hetchy. He tried to visualize the Valley without the water.

Someone asked about a voice recorded in his DVD. He replied that it was Harold Wood, who used to be the head of a Sierra Club task force to have the O'Shaughnessy Dam removed. Mark emailed Wood about his project, and then interviewed him for an hour over the telephone and recorded the interview. He included a segment of the interview in his DVD.

In producing his DVD, Mark used both still and moving images, background music, his voice narration, and the interview segment from the telephone conversation with Harold Wood. The DVD can be no more than 10 minutes long.

Caroline's presentation was on a topic much closer to home, the Wolf Creek nuclear power plant located about 55 miles south of Topeka and a few miles northeast

of Burlington, Kansas. She said nuclear power was the most reliable source of energy and Wolf Creek continues to meet a growing power demand in Kansas and Missouri. She said gas is the most used source. Wolf Creek generates some 1,200 megawatts of electricity, enough to power nearly 800,000 homes.

There were many public meetings held before building Wolf Creek, and each had its share of proponents and opponents of nuclear power. Planning, development, and construction of the plant went ahead, and Wolf Creek went on line September 1, 1985. Caroline said renewed public meetings about the safety and operation of Wolf Creek occurred after a tsunami in Japan caused severe damage to the Fukushima nuclear plant. Wolf Creek addresses this issue on its website.

Some 5,000 workers built Wolf Creek, and the plant employs about 1,000 people. The plant has to get 20 year license renewals to operate. Caroline said the United States has not built a nuclear plant in 30 years as a moratorium was put into place after the Three Mile Island accident in 1979. This nuclear plant, near Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, suffered a core meltdown in one of its units. Caroline said three plants are currently being built in Georgia.

In reply to a question, Caroline said she favors Wolf Creek and nuclear power, because it is a highly regulated industry. Another question was in regards to what country had the most nuclear plants. Caroline replied that the United States had the most reactors, but France generated the most power. France gets about 75 percent of its electricity from nuclear power, the United States gets about 20 percent.

Caroline's exhibit consisted of three hinged, story board panels that held text, photos, and charts. At base of the panels were more text blocks and a Wolf Creek plaque. One of the text blocks carried some of the anti-nuclear comments from the public meetings before the plant was built. They included, "This farm is not for sale," "Now we know how the Indians felt," and "Go home KG&E."

Both presentations were excellent, and Mark and Caroline appeared very comfortable speaking before us and answering our questions. Two weeks after the luncheon, Susan Sittenauer sent an email that read, "They both qualified for nationals!!" Mark's and Caroline's next stop will be the national competition in June at University of Maryland at College Park.



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| S A T U R D A Y J U N E 4th 8 am to 6 pm | Kansas 150th Armed Forces Celebration at Forbes Field Topeka, Kansas COMBAT AIR MUSEUM KANSAS NATIONAL GUARD MUSEUM Grand Parade & Opening Ceremony Military & Civilian Aircraft Display WWII & Civil War Re-enactors Classic & Antique Car Shows Fire Truck Demonstrations Military Vehicle Displays Model Airplane Flying Hot Air Balloons Pancake Feed Skydiving for details see: website: www.kansas150forbes.net | S U N D A Y J U N E 5th 9 am to 3 pm |
| | | |

For details, please go to
www.kansas150forbes.net.

Come out and help CAM support this event.

June Membership Luncheon

Our speaker for the
 June 13
 Membership
 Luncheon
 will be
 Lieutenant Mike
 Riley, US Navy,
 from the Command
 and General Staff
 College
 at Fort
 Leavenworth.



2011 Events Calendar

Dates subject to change

June

Kansas 150th Armed Forces
 Celebration
 June 4-5

Aviation Education Class
 June 20 - 23

July

Aviation Education Class
 July 11 - 14

August

Aviation Education Class
 August 1 - 4

September

Winged Foot 5K Run/Walk
 September 24



*Hazel at the
 Distinguished
 Flying Cross
 awards
 ceremony last
 fall.*



In Memoriam

Hazel Forbes Bartron
Topeka
August 2, 1920 - May 4, 2011

Hazel Forbes Bartron, 90, widow of Major Daniel Forbes, Jr., for whom Forbes Air Force Base was named, died May 4, 2011 in Topeka. Hazel had a long association and friendship with Combat Air Museum.

Hazel, a native of Ohio, met Daniel Forbes at Wright Field, Dayton, Ohio, where she worked with the flight test division, and he was an Air Force test pilot. Forbes was a native of Carbondale, Kansas. They married on March 11, 1948. Three months later, Forbes and four others died in the crash of a Northrop YB-49 Flying Wing near Muroc Field, California. He and his crew were test flying the futuristic-looking bomber. On July 13, 1949, Hazel was in Topeka, a member of the reviewing party, during the formal dedication renaming Topeka Air Force Base to Forbes Air Force Base.

Hazel later married Robert Bartron, a career Air Force pilot. They were divorced in 1969. She and her children, William and Jill, moved back to Topeka, and Hazel became a caregiver to Daniel Forbes' parents, Hattie and Daniel, Sr. until their passing. Hazel, William, and Jill remained in Topeka after the Forbes' deaths.

Our initial collection of Daniel Forbes' artifacts and memorabilia came to CAM through member Don Nisbett. After the Education Conference Room was built in Hangar 602, a new exhibit case was built to exhibit some of this collection, and a portrait of Forbes was hung beside the case. In 2003, Tom Witty refurbished the exhibit to include a gemstone from Forbes' ring, found at the crash site in

"Hazel Forbes Bartron," con't. from page 7

1997 and presented to Hazel at a Family Freedom Day Air Show in September 2002. Hazel donated the gemstone to CAM a month later. Forbes' wristwatch, found by his mother during a 1948 visit to the crash site, was also donated. Hazel donated the gemstone on behalf of the entire crew who died in the YB-49 crash.

On February 21, 2003, the Major Daniel Forbes, Jr. exhibit was rededicated with Hazel taking part in the ceremony. The gemstone, watch, and a new plaque dedicated to all five men lost in the YB-49 crash were now part of the exhibit. Senior Master Sergeant Keith Fulton, Kansas Air National Guard, was master of ceremonies. He had gotten to know Hazel during the 1999 Forbes at Fifty celebration, and they became reacquainted during the return of the gemstone to Hazel. Their acquaintance became a friendship that lasted until Hazel's death.

Over the next several years, Hazel would occasionally come to the Museum to see the exhibit and look over other items we have in storage. Keith would arrange the visits and come with Hazel. The visits gave him opportunity and time to also look over records and artifacts to get information for a book he is writing about Daniel and Hazel Forbes. Hazel was a quiet and reserved lady, and it was a pleasure to visit with her.

Our last visit with Hazel was in October 2010. Four CAM members attended a private ceremony on October 24 at the Manor Care Home where Hazel was presented a Distinguished Flying Cross on behalf of her late husband to replace one that had been lost. We enjoyed our post ceremony visit with Hazel and her family. Truly an admirable lady from the Greatest Generation, Hazel will be interred next to Daniel Forbes, Jr. in the Overbrook, Kansas cemetery.

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