



HISTORIAN

PUBLICATION OF THE MINNESOTA AIR NATIONAL GUARD HISTORICAL FOUNDATION

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

<i>Volunteer Coordinator</i>	2
<i>Thanks for Your Support</i>	2
<i>Airplane Funnies</i>	2
<i>Chairman's Comments</i>	3
<i>We Need Your Help</i>	4
<i>Volunteer Survey</i>	Insert

Volunteer Meetings

February 12, 2005

Date: 1/29/2005

Time: 10:00 AM

Location: Museum

Topic: Inventory

April 2005

Date: 4/16/2005

Time: 10:00 AM

Location: Museum

Topic: 2005 Season

The annual election for board officers was held January 5, 2005. Your Minnesota Air National Guard Historical Foundation officers for 2005 are:

- Chairman: John Kahler**
- Vice-Chair: Dick Wiessner**
- Treasurer: Bill Latady**
- Secretary: Ted Hoeben**

MINNESOTA AIR GUARD MUSEUM: A VISION FOR THE FUTURE

The Board of Directors of the Minnesota Air National Guard Historical Foundation are resolved to find a new home for the Air Guard Museum on land adjacent to the 133rd Airlift Wing Base.



Artist's Conception of New Museum by Don Carlson

The new museum concept has been an area of interest for museum officials and members for a number of years. However, recent events including stricter security requirements on the Base (restricting public access) and the possible need for the museum to vacate the Alert Hangar for the second time in the Spring of 2005 have prompted a vigorous move to make this vision a reality.

Currently, the board has undertaken a successful

marketing campaign aimed at potential donors and collaborators. This campaign includes a professionally – produced video presentation about the new museum concept and a wealth of supporting documents, including schematics of the proposed building (see picture above) and projected costs for development.

In response to these marketing efforts, the Minnesota Air National Guard Historical

Foundation has been awarded a \$1 million dollar matching grant from a former Guardsman. This money will be used to attract additional revenue and to start strategic development for the new museum.

If you would like more information, please contact Dick Wiessner at the Minnesota Air Guard Museum at 612-713-2523 .♦

EVA MILLER: HER PURPOSE, OUR LEGACY

BY RAY PETERSON

When asked to write a piece about Eva Miller, I agreed to relay what I knew about her from the six or seven times I talked with her while I worked on Museum displays. I came to know her only after the initial work of establishing

a Museum was completed. I was aware that her scrapbooks constituted the nucleus of the Minnesota Air Guard history at the Museum. Her refinement and gentle manners were apparent at once to all who met her.

After our first meeting, I regretted never having met General Miller. She told me of how she and other pilot's wives had held bake sales to raise money for gas so their husbands could have flight time. I knew then (continued on page 3.)

The *Historian* is the official publication of the Minnesota Air National Guard Historical Foundation, Inc. It is distributed free to Minnesota Air Guard Museum members and circulated to other individuals and corporations for information and promotional purposes.

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Michele Manion

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55111-0598

Web page <http://www.mnangmuseum.org>

– published since 1983 –

NEW MUSEUM VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR

BY RICHARD BRUECKNER

I have accepted a request from the Air National Guard Museum Foundation Board of Directors to assume the position of Volunteer Coordinator.

Volunteers are the heart and soul of our museum. Since its dedication in 1984, the Minnesota Air National Guard Museum has evolved into one of the finest repositories of aviation history in the country. This accomplishment could not have been achieved without the tireless efforts of our committed volunteers.

To pursue the Museum's vision into the future, we

need to continue the active participation of our volunteer cadre. The Board feels that by establishing the coordinator position the best utilization can be made of the various talents and specialties of the active membership. My plan would be the creation of project teams to function along with our present Jenny and Photo Phantom teams. Individual teams would operate according to their own unique needs. My job is to assure that each team has what it needs to complete its project.

On a personal level, I am a Charter Member of the Museum Foundation and a re-

tired LTC with 28 years total Air Force and Guard experience. I am a Viet Nam veteran and a Bronze Star recipient. I had the profound good fortune of serving with and assisting the Museum's "founding fathers." Consequently, I am committed to seeing the Museum's mission successfully fulfilled in the future.

To help identify our volunteers and specific needs, I have attached a survey (see separate sheet) requesting your feedback. Please complete and return promptly so we can establish an updated database and proceed with our goals.

FUN AND GAMES

New puzzle - match the aircraft with the manufacturer:

- | | |
|------------------------|---------------------|
| 1. AT-6 Texan | A. Piper |
| 2. C-130 Hercules | B. General Dynamics |
| 3. T-33 T-bird | C. Boeing |
| 4. F-89H Scorpion | D. Douglas |
| 6. 5.P-51D Mustang | E. Lockheed |
| 7. C-97 Stratofighter | F. Northrop |
| 8. C-45 Expeditor | G. Vought |
| 9. A-12 Blackbird | H. Mikoyan-Gurevich |
| 10. F-94C Starfire | I. Curtiss |
| 11. C-131 Samaritan | J. Grumman |
| 12. F-4C Phantom | K. McDonnell |
| 13. F-101 Voodoo | L. Fairchild |
| 14. F-102 Delta Dagger | M. North American |
| 15. C-47 Dakota | N. Convair |
| 16. L-4 Grasshopper | O. Beech |
| 17. Mig-15UTI | P. Lear |
| 18. JN-4H Jenny | Q. Martin |

ANSWERS TO MATCHING NAMES PUZZLE (LAST ISSUE):

- | | |
|-------|---------------|
| AT-6 | Texan |
| C-130 | Hercules |
| T-33 | T-bird |
| F-89H | Scorpion |
| P-51D | Mustang |
| C-97 | Stratofighter |
| C-45 | Expeditor |
| A-12 | Blackbird |
| F-94C | Starfire |
| C-131 | Samaritan |
| F-4C | Phantom |
| F-101 | Voodoo |
| F-102 | Delta Dagger |
| C-47 | Dakota |

Puzzle Winners:

Harry Reynolds, Buffalo, MN

Bob McKenna, Chantilly, VA

**Send your answers to:
Historian Puzzle
PO Box 11598,
Minneapolis, MN 55111-
0598**

THANKS FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

Fund-raising in today's economic climate is an unprecedented challenge. There are a number of reasons for this, but it is safe to say that all organizations are feeling the pinch. The Minnesota Air Guard Museum is no exception, and we wish to express our gratitude for our members and donors who make our existence possible.

The Minnesota Air Guard Museum is run by a private non-profit foundation, the Minnesota Air National Guard Historical Foundation, Inc., who is solely responsible for providing operating capital. We are not subsidized by state or federal government. The majority of our revenue is generated by membership fees, tours and private donations. This is why your continued support is so vital, and why we appreciate the dedication of our members and donors.

Because the Museum has enjoyed loyal support for more than 20 years, the board of directors of the Minnesota Air National Guard Historical Foundation, Inc. is currently making plans to substantially increase the size and scope of the existing museum (see *A Vision for the Future*,

page 1). In order to maintain our current operations while working the new museum, we will need to rely on the continued support of our members. Here are some painless ways you can help:

- ◆ "Sponsor" a plane, an exhibit, or a specific program at the Museum.
- ◆ Make a donation in honor of a friend or loved one as a holiday gift
- ◆ If you shop online, use the igive.com site to access over 400 vendors. A percentage of the purchase price is donated to the charity of your choice.

Please contact Michele Manion at the Museum office at (612) 713-2523 if you have any questions or suggestions.

The *Historian* is now available in electronic format (via e-mail). Call for details.

EVA MILLER (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

that we would always have anecdotes and history to remember here.

Eva seemed pleased at how the first displays came together. She would stand, braced with her walking stick, and examine the labels and photos, the timeline layouts, and the contents of the display cases. It was her wish that ours would be the best Air National Guard Museum in the country. We couldn't do everything we wanted, but we did our best. Her approval of our efforts came with her rewarding smile and words of encouragement, "You have it right. Keep up the good work."

As the mother of the Air Guard, Eva Miller was exceptional in many ways. Amid the many gifts she left members of Minnesota's Air Guard was the perception that their story is more than a simple narrative. She believed the story of the Minnesota Air Guard, its conception, progression and transformations, was an important living history to be shared with the community. A story from and about its citizens in uniform.

The timeline of the Minnesota Air National Guard followed the timeline of this great nation: early struggles with aviation technology, readiness for combat operations and training for war, establishing a post-war identity, and participating in Cold War deterrence and humanitarian efforts. Each facet, recounted in a museum setting, would be an inheritance for the community. The tradition and heritage of thousands of individual stories could now be merged into the single ongoing saga of the Minnesota Air National Guard.

Eva realized that to communicate this story would be challenging. Volunteers and staff frequently brought more dedication than experience when it came to museum operations. But the Minnesota Air Guard provided us with a building and the volunteers and members provided good will and hard work. Eva's dream became a reality.

It is impossible to say what the future holds in this unstable and insecure world. All we know for sure is that the Minnesota Air National Guard will continue to play a large role in defending this country, as

they have through the great conflicts of the past. The stories and experiences of today's Guard will continue to merge with those of their predecessors and, thanks to Eva Miller and the Foundation she established, the Minnesota Air Guard Museum will be there to preserve it.. ♦

IMPORTANT NOTICE:

MUSEUM INVENTORY

In the confusion surrounding 9/11, museum collection items and other belongings (tools, etc) were moved to various locations for storage and safe-keeping. A few items of significant historical and/or monetary value were stored in private homes to insure their safe preservation. Most of these items have now been returned to the museum. However, we are still missing some things and, as we are about to embark on an official inventory, we are asking for your cooperation in returning any museum property that may still be in private hands. Property in question may be returned to the museum at any time, or other arrangements may be made by calling 612-713-2523.

A MESSAGE FROM THE OUTGOING CHAIRMAN

BY CMSGT BRUCE GRAHAM

2004 was a remarkable season for the Air Guard Museum. The museum was open to the public on Saturdays this year and we had an outstanding attendance with an estimated 1400 visitors. In our first open season since Sept 11th our museum volunteer staff demonstrated we can present a positive external image to the public while not jeopardizing the integrity of the security of our base. What I observed was a special interest from our visitors and a strong appreciation for what the Guard is doing in the war against terrorism. Visitors enjoyed viewing our historical displays, military hardware and especially our current Guard display on what our troops have been involved with since Sept 11th.

There has been an increased interest in the Guard and reports of our deployments have frequently been in the news since 9-11. The community

wants to be involved. They want to see and feel a part of what they have been hearing about our guardsmen. As members and volunteers our enthusiasm for the Air Guard and Minnesota aviation goes much deeper in the preservation of that history. It is this common interest that has brought us together as members.

Now as we make plans for the 2005 season, we can use this time to expand our historic traditional militia heritage and culture. This can only be accomplished by involving all Air National Guard Museum stakeholders to work towards a common goal which ultimately will enhance the future for the entire Air National Guard Museum.

In my nearly five-year tenure as chairman of the Minnesota Air National Guard Historical Society, I have had the privilege to work with many dedi-

cated and professional individuals. In the future, I look forward to continuing these relationships as a member of the board, and to pursuing our common goal of making the Minnesota Air Guard Museum the outstanding organization it is destined to be.

I want to thank each member for the support they have given this organization this past year and most of all wish you and all your family members a successful and Happy New Year!

The Board of the Minnesota Air National Guard Historical Foundation wishes to congratulate CMSgt Bruce Graham on his promotion to Command Chief of the 133rd Airlift Wing and to thank him for his years of service to the museum. Bruce will continue to serve on the Board of Directors.

**Minnesota Air Guard
Museum**
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www.mnangmuseum.org

WE NEED YOUR HELP!

2004 was our first open season since 9/11. After prolonged closure with limited public access, we are still here—the only aviation museum in the area where you can get up close and personal with unique fighter, reconnaissance, cargo and other aircraft (including the rare A-12 Blackbird). We are also the sole custodians of the story of the Minnesota Air National Guard—the first federally recognized air guard unit in the country. Our collection is invaluable and we are planning to make the museum much, much better.

While the 2004 season was a success, we did experience limitations in our operation. Our generous hosts, the 133rd Airlift Wing, worked with us to address heightened security concerns in this post-9/11 age, and we had to limit museum publicity and hours of operation. These considerations had considerable impact on our revenue (visitor and door receipts were cut nearly in half), and we find that our day-to-day operations budget is perilously low.

Membership dues and visitor donations account for a large part of our operating revenue. During our closure we lost a number of members and lost all visitor income. Because of this, we are making an appeal to former members to rejoin the museum, for current members to consider upgrading their membership, and for all parties to encourage others to become members of the Minnesota Air Guard Museum. Cash donations in support of operating expenses would be greatly appreciated and donations totaling \$25,000 or more will qualify for the matching

grant program mentioned on page 1. Non-cash donations are also welcome (see wish list) and are another way to support the Museum. Donations of services, products, building space or other gifts are tax-deductible.

It is our goal to expand and improve the Air Guard Museum. With your help, we intend to be around for a long time.

Wish List (partial—call for details)	Estimated Value:
-Computer/Software:	
QuickBooks Premium 2005 for Nonprofits	\$450
PastPerfect Network Upgrade	\$350
Computer Monitor	\$250
Broadband Access	\$95/month
- Office/Storage:	
Space (2040 s.f. of leased space)	?
Filing Cabinets (3)	\$125 each
Storage Cabinets for Collection Objects	\$400- 800 each
Storage Boxes/Accessories for Collection	\$Varies
-Publications:	
Historian Publishing and Postage	\$450/issue
- Tools:	
Commercial Grade Tools (call for details)	\$?Varies