

MINNESOTA AIR NATIONAL GUARD HISTORICAL FOUNDATION
MINNESOTA ANG MUSEUM NEWS
Minnesota Aviation History - Learn of the Past
Spring 2016



Grants used to manage museum's inventory

Story and photos by Kirk Ransom

The museum has received several grants since 2011 to inventory and catalog the 'Collection'. The first one was to inventory and catalog the Brig. Gen. Ray S. Miller and Eve Miller collection. This was done in 2011 and 2012. In 2013 we received a grant to create a Collection Management Policy and Procedures document.

The big news is in November 2015 we received a grant from the State of Minnesota, Adjutant Generals' Office, Support Our Troops program, to hire two archivists to inventory the museum's archives. This includes all paper records, books, posters, plaques, pictures, slides, videos, movies, personal papers, stories and journals, and anything else that is two dimensional.

As of January 19, two qualified archivists, Stephen Barrett and Mariah Kenney, are hard at work doing the inventory using the upstairs conference room. To do this they fill out a form with the description and details of each picture, paper, maps, etc. Each item is assigned a number and the same number is on the form. Then the item is photographed or scanned and the same number is assigned to the image.

So far they have done about 1,130 items and it goes up about 100+ items a day and they have only scratched



Archivists Stephen Barrett and Mariah Kenney inventory museum artifacts on Feb. 24, 2016 in the conference room. Many of the items have been stored in old copy paper boxes, which can lead to damage of the artifacts. Donations are appreciated for new archive safe boxes.

the surface! We originally estimated there may be 9,000 items. Now it may be closer to 14,000 or more.

This inventory is also identifying the archives that can be weeded out; that is, disposing of items that are not related to the Museum's mission and scope, are too dirty or damaged to keep or items that are more appropriate for other museums.

Grants story and photos continues on page 5

PHOTO PHANTOM IMPROVEMENTS by Jim Atwell

During the winter months, the volunteers at our Minnesota ANG Museum have been very busy making major improvements to the F-4 Photo Phantom for our upcoming 2016 season and beyond. A photo on the back page shows the crew who did much of the paint work.

Volunteers have worked countless hours preparing the fuselage and radome components erasing years of weather and physical damage, making it ready for a fresh, new paint application.

This display of military aviation history is a huge attraction at airshows, and civic events around the Twin

Phantom story continues on page 5

Also inside:

- Updates on board members
- Opportunities for helping at events
- The summer schedule
- T-33A has NASA ties



Our volunteers: John Wagers

story and photo by Terry Morris

John Wagers became a volunteer at the Minnesota Air National Guard Museum in 2013 after finding our website from an online career opportunities search. John's journey to the museum differs from that of many volunteers in that he had no prior military background but a passion for military history.

Prior to joining the museum, this journey took him from being a St. Paul native with a degree in history, to Tokyo, Japan for 10 years as an English language instructor with students ranging in age from 7 months to 94 years young! He was there during the 2011 tsunami and Fukushima nuclear disaster. Even though he found a great employment opportunity in another passion of cars with a local automobile dealership, he has remained an active museum volunteer.



Since joining the museum's volunteer staff, John has been the key to the restoration and maintenance of the museum's Wright 1820 Cyclone engine exhibit. This engine type was used in a number of WWII aircraft including the B-17 Flying fortress and the SBD Dauntless dive bomber, plus a diesel version was even used in the M4-A6 Sherman tank. He has also assisted on other restoration projects and occasionally provides auxiliary docent support.

Though he is most proud of the work that he did on the Wright 1820, John's favorite airplane is the P-51 as it was one of the last of the true gunfighters and a key to the Allied victory of WWII.

When asked what he likes most about being a volunteer, John will answer the fellowship of the other volunteers. He is especially grateful for their willingness and patience to work with a person who joined with no military background but a passion to learn.

Displays help tell the story

story and photo by Rick Heinecke

We had a great introductory display of the Honeywell Legacy Group story. It was recently paired with an adjoining display of the Air National Guard Museum and a display of the AirSpace Foundation.

The tabletop display included the new touchscreen video system with 4 videos of Honeywell equipment and systems in use in Aerospace applications.

Honeywell displays were used by the museum at a recent event.



The plan is to use the control box (Brightsign control) for the permanent display to be set up when the display case is ready.

It was discussed that it might be easier and less expensive to use a standard (non-touch) screen and push-buttons for selection of topics for the permanent display.

There were many inquiries about the displays and the organizations.

Mall of America event spreads news

The museum was invited to the Mall of America on March 12 to celebrate the 20th anniversary of Aces flight simulators. There were several other aviation oriented organizations at the event. Jerry Schultz and Mike Drews represented the Air Guard Museum with a display of artifacts from the museum.

Many people stopped by the display and Jerry and Mike were able to hand out brochures and provide information about our museum. Some of the visitors who were veterans would tell stories of their time in the service because the displayed items brought back memories.

This event was a good way for the museum volunteers to inform the public of our organization and what we offer to the community.

Mission Statement:

The mission of the Minnesota Air National Guard Historical Foundation is to preserve the heritage and traditions of the Minnesota Air National Guard.

Board Members:

Chairman: Brian Wyneken

Vice Chairman: Karen Wolf

Secretary: Terry Morris

Executive Dir./Dir. of Operations: Mike Drews

Treasurer: Tom Simonet

Members: Ray Pittman, Rick Heinecke, Jerry Schultz, Brig. Gen. Greg Haase, Anja Drescher, Jim Atwell, Rick Dow and Herb Ketcham

Wing Advisor: Col. Loren Hubert

Legal Counsel: Kelly & Lemmons, P.A., Joe Kelly and Kevin Beck

Newsletter editor: Jim Atwell

Assistant editor: Mark Moss

Museum Hours Access:

Tours can be arranged through Stan Christianson (stanangmuseum@gmail.com) or call him at (612)713-2523. Special events such as birthday parties can be arranged through Nancy Wilson (nancyspecialeventsmnangmuseum@gmail.com) or call (612)210-9839.

Address all correspondence to:
Minnesota Air Guard Museum
P.O. Box 11598
St. Paul, MN 55111-0598

<http://mnangmuseum.org>

(The Minnesota Air National Guard Historical Foundation is a non-profit organization and not affiliated with the Department of Defense, Minnesota National Guard or

Volunteer Opportunities Available at 2016 Events!

As you may have heard, security was increased last year to the 'Bravo' level at the 133rd Airlift Wing base. Due to this change, we were forced to cancel our 'Open Visitor Saturdays' which many of you had supported as volunteers. In an effort to continue to engage the community, we successfully took our Photo Phantom exhibit and mobile gift shop to eight offsite events including the Flying Cloud and Osceola air shows. This year we have been advised that the base security level will remain the same and thus we are again planning to participate in community events which will require volunteer support.

If you want to help with our Photo Phantom or in our gift shop at any of the following events, please contact us by email at mnangmuseum1@gmail.com or by phone on (612)713-2523. Thanks for your continued support!

Chairman's comments

Jim Atwell is doing a superb job leading the effort to get out the news to our members. The variety and substance of the stories in this newsletter are a running testament to the dedicated efforts of so many volunteers. As a historical organization, it is particularly right and proper that we routinely capture and celebrate our progress in this way.

While we are on the subject of celebrations, this past six months marked the 95th year of the establishment of the Minnesota Air National Guard. The one-hundredth anniversary is not that far off and planning for such a momentous event will gain more momentum this year. The MNANGHF as the principal custodian for the records and history will play a key role in preparation for this great event. While we remain busy with archiving, process and display improvements, and securing our future, this celebration in 2021 provides an opportunity to set a bench-mark date for strategic planning. This year is that time to establish solid goals and plans to meet those goals. Membership input is important for this, so please seek out board members to discuss your ideas and visions for the future of the MNANGHF.

I want to take a moment also to celebrate the many contributions of Robert Minish over the years he has faithfully served this foundation as a board member. Always thoughtful, always calm, and exceedingly generous he provided a special type of leadership that contributed immensely to the success we're seeing today. Robert decided not to seek board re-election at the end of 2015, but with Robert's departure from the board we welcome two new members, Herb Ketcham and Rick Dow. We all thank Robert for his many years of board service, and we look forward to the future contributions of Herb and Rick.

In lastly speaking of celebrations, I want to thank Lew and Karen Wolf for again this year hosting the volunteer party this past January. A bad head cold kept me away and I was very sorry for it is so important to thank our volunteers. The board was well represented, but I'll take this opportunity to extend my personal thanks to the volunteers for such a successful 2015.

Your Foundation Board Chair,
Brian Wyneken

2016 Tentative Event Schedule

Discover Aviation Days Blaine, Minn. -- June 4-5
Rush City Airport Fly-in, Minn. -- June 12
Vets Fest Oakdale, Minn. -- July 2
Flying Cloud Airport AirExpo, Minn. -- July 16-17
Dakota County Fair- Farmington, Minn. -- Aug. 8-14
Gear Head Days- Maple Lake, Minn. -- Aug. 20
Osceola, Wis. -- Sept. 10 (tentative)

Please check our website: <http://mnangmuseum.org> for updates throughout the summer.

Board members coming and going

In January Bob Minish retired from the museum's Board of Directors. Bob grew up in Robbinsdale, Minn. and graduated from the University of Minnesota with a Corporate Law Degree. Bob was President of the Friends of the Sibley Historic Site when Dick Wiessner invited him to join the museum's board. Bob's involvement with the Sibley Historic Site provided him with a strong interest in all aspects of the Fort Snelling/Mendota area and Bob was elected to the board in 2005. While on the board, Bob helped as legal counsel, head of finances, and with strategic planning. He has seen the highs and lows of the museum during his service on the board, and difficult financial decisions were made to keep the museum viable. Bob was also a witness to the removal of the A-12 Blackbird plane from the museum by the CIA.

One of the highlights of Bob's experience at the museum was the Jenny project. A WWI Jenny was built by the museum volunteers and is now on display in the rotunda of the Minnesota History Center in St. Paul. In 2009, the museum celebrated its 25th anniversary. Later that year General Dynamics hosted an event in the museum's hangar to celebrate the 1000th installation of its computer system into a Super Hornet F-18 fighter jet. The jet was flown to the museum by pilot Lauri Solberg from Mahtomedi, Minn.

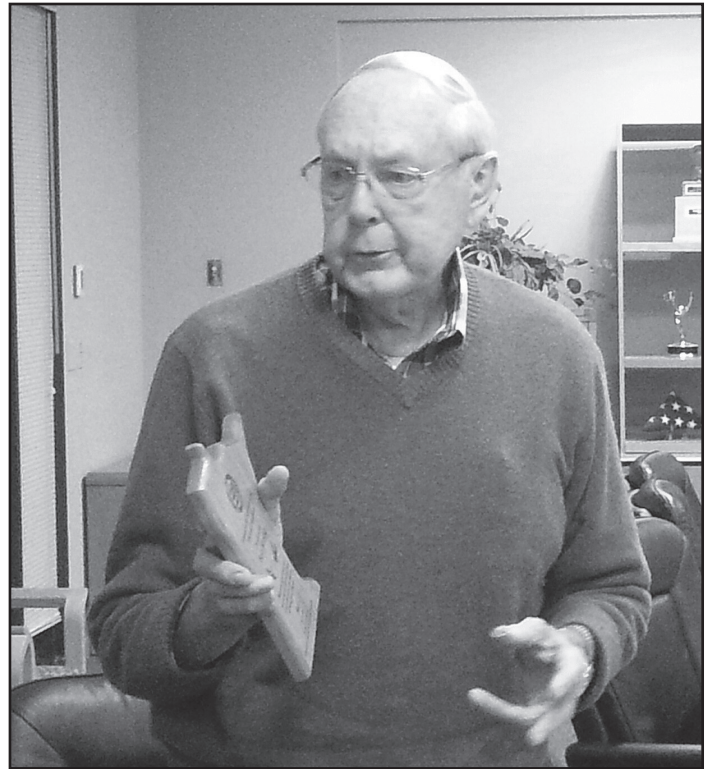
Bob is impressed by the dedication of the volunteers and the appreciation of all people who have served in the military. Every year the museum hosts an appreciation party for all volunteers to thank them for the time they've committed to the museum. For the last two years Bob has donated a stay at his condo on Lutsen Mountain as the grand prize for the drawing at the volunteer appreciation party.

After Dick Wiessner died in 2013, Bob realized he was the only board member who had firsthand knowledge of the museum's operations so he decided to stay on the board. Since then the museum has undergone a major transformation and it is financially on a very sound footing. Bob is proud to have served on the museum's board of directors for the past ten years. The Board members and volunteers that he has met are a talented and dedicated group and will assure the museum's continued success.

The museum's board members and volunteers will miss Bob's extensive knowledge and advice and wish him all the best.

The museum welcomes two new very qualified board members.

Frederick (Rick) Dow, Sr. comes to us with an impressive résumé. He has held high-level management



Bob Minish receives a plaque on Jan. 13, 2016 during the museum board meeting on the Air Guard base.
photo by Stan Ross

positions including CMO at BringMeTheNews and The i.e. Network and senior marketing positions at Midas International, Burger King, Thomson Reuters, Northwest Airlines and Olin Corp. Rick is presently a principal at the DOJO Group which provides marketing for start-up ventures and established global brands. He is the immediate past chair of the board of the American Marketing Association and is active with arts and charitable organizations, having served on the boards of the St Paul Chamber Orchestra, Make-A-Wish Foundation, Wilderness Inquiry and the Chicago Film Festival.

Herb Ketcham also joined the board recently. He was a member of the Minnesota Air National Guard in the 133rd Maintenance Squadron from 1954 to 1958. Herb is one of the founding partners of the Architectural Alliance firm and during his 25 years with the firm he has been principal in charge of many projects as well as President. Herb has a private pilot's license and has worked on various terminal related projects at the Minneapolis/St. Paul International Airport. He has served on the board of the Minnesota Society American Institute of Architects and at one point served as President. Herb also taught at the College of Architecture and Landscape Architecture and served on the board.

These two board members' experience and knowledge will contribute greatly to the museum's future endeavors.

Grant story and photo continued from page 1

In January we were awarded another large Grant, this time from the Minnesota History Society's office of Minnesota Historical and Cultural Grants, for a project to inventory and catalog the artifacts (three dimensional objects) in the Museum's collection. This project will start in March or April and last a year.

Another important part of the project where we need help is with our collection storage cages now under construction. In one of the hangar bays we are erecting steel shelving racks where the valid artifacts and archives will be stored. While the racks are up, there is still work to be done on them to include painting quarter-inch plywood and installing it around the cages. Then we need help to design and install some heavy plastic roll up curtains on the front of the two cages which will allow access to the racks and artifact and archive boxes as needed. Each cage will have air-conditioning units to control the humidity and temperature.

So if any of you reading this want to be involved in these projects, please volunteer. We need people to enter the data on the forms into a database on the computer. Data entry has a 40 hour backlog and it grows every hour the team creates more inventory forms. Volunteer for any time Tuesday thru Saturday from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Three computers are available for data entry. We also need people to photograph or scan the archives.

If you want to input data into the computer, there is a volunteer job for you. If you have a desire to paint or use your carpentry skills, there is a volunteer job out here just for you.

Please contact Kirk Ransom at (952)250-8656 or kirk41ransom@gmail.com or Mike Drews at the museum about your interest in any of these projects. If you want to visit the base to see the inventory projects and how you can support it, call Stan Christianson at (612)713-2523 to be put on an entry access list for base access. Call Stan ten days in advance of when you want to visit the museum. Volunteers will be given a 'Volunteer ID' card that allows access to the base.



Archivists Stephen Barrett and Mariah Kenney inventory museum archives on Feb. 25, 2016 at the museum.

Boxes needed for archives and artifacts

The Historical Collection inventory is making great progress. More than 4,000 archives have been inventoried and 2,000 inventory sheets need to be entered into the database. While the three dimensional objects (artifacts) inventory only started four weeks ago, already 600 items have been inventoried.

For twenty years most of the archives and artifact were stored in old '10-ream' copy paper boxes. While convenient these boxes are laden with acids and lignin which are not good for preservation. So as we inventory and repackage the items, we are putting them in 'archive' safe boxes. These boxes are 15" x 12" x 10" high which can be used for both letter and legal size archives. They can also be used for artifacts. Twenty-six boxes cost \$366.60 (we get a \$1.00 off if ordering over 25.)

We have already used 54 boxes. We need at least 200 more of these boxes to store the archives and artifacts. We are asking for donations for the purchase of these boxes. You can purchase as a donation one box for \$14.10 or twenty-six for \$366.60. There are many other sized boxes we also need to store things like large maps and photographs, as well as flags, uniforms, and B-17 & B-24 flight gear. And there are shipping charges to cover also.

So we are asking for your help to support the collection inventory and catalog project. Any donations should be marked for the collection inventory project and will be placed in a separate account. A really big thanks for your support.

Photo Phantom story continued from page 1

Cities area. People from all generations are attracted to the Photo Phantom and enjoy sitting in the cockpits to be amazed by all the complexity of flight from fifty plus years ago.

Sincere thanks go to: Mike Drews, Anja Drescher, John Wagers, George Brown, Greg Bastyr, Ron Hokensen, and Jim Atwell.

We also want to thank Jerry Schultz for his research in identifying a vendor to take on this paint project and MAACO on Riverwood Dr. in Burnsville, Minn. for accepting this project and painting the fuselage in the very same livery paint scheme it so proudly displayed while it was on active duty with our military.

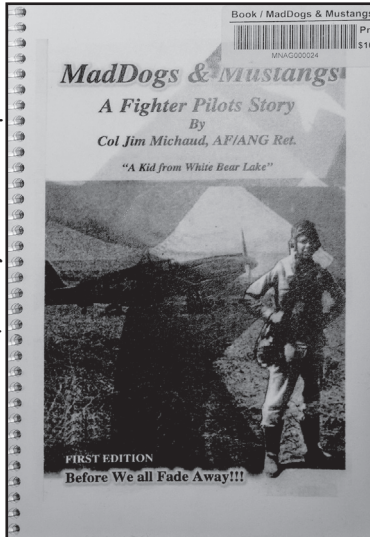
We hope anyone interested in viewing and sitting in this amazing aircraft cockpit can come out and visit us. You can share stories, ask questions, and just marvel at this amazing exhibit.

Book Review: 'Mad Dogs and Mustangs' by Col. C.J. 'Jim' Michaud, USAAF/MNANG

229 pages, over 70 illustrations, spiral bound paperback \$10 (+\$5.00 S&H if you want mailed).

This book is the story of Jim Michaud, who grew up around White Bear Lake, and tells the tales of his experiences in World War II as a fighter/bomber pilot in the 86th Fighter/Bomber Group. It culminates with his post war military and civilian jobs.

He and his older brother Joe were crazy about airplanes, and a lot of their spare time and money went into building sailplanes which they flew by



running down hillsides.

When WWII came, Jim who had received aviation mechanics training, wanted to enlist in the AAF as a mechanic, but to his surprise he was instead sent to pilot training. After pilot training he was initially ordered to go to the China-Burma-India Theater of operations, but as the war in North Africa was still going on he was reassigned there. After a short stint of flying 14-15 missions in North Africa, Jim was transferred to the 86th Fighter Bomber Group at Salerno, Italy. All told Jim logged 130 missions during the war; 66 in the North American A-36 Apache, 13 in the P-40 Warhawk, and 64 in the Republic P-47 Thunderbolt.

Chapter XV, The Oddities of Combat Aviation describes a lot of odd, strange happenings. There are a lot of interesting anecdotes the likes of which you have never read in any other pilot's memoirs. Buy this book in the museum gift shop. You will enjoy it.

If you can't get to the museum the book can be mailed to you. Call Stan @ (612)713-2523.

Thank You!

The Minnesota Air National Guard Museum would like to thank the following for their contributions:

- Air Force retired Brig. Gen. Mark Ness for his contribution of an electric generator.
- The 133rd Civil Engineering Squadron for the installation of center overhead lighting in bays 3 and 4.
- Nick Cesaro-Moxley, owner of Heart to Home for a donation of three wheelchairs to the museum for use by visitors who need additional assistance during tours.
- TowMasters of Litchfield, Minn., for the donation of a trailer to transport the P-51 and F-4 cockpits to off base events. This project was a vision of Harry Alton, Jerry Schultz and the late Dick Wiessner.
- Metropolitan Airport Commission for the donation of crowd control stanchions for use during museum events.

We also want to extend a thank you to two new life members:
Air Force retired Col. James Daugherty and Mr. Eid Behrnt.

The museum greatly appreciates the contributions these people and organizations have made. It is through this kind of support that we are able to continue to strengthen our programs and develop new and innovative projects to serve our members and the community.

Gift Shop busy at home and on the road

The gift shop has come a long way in the last two years. In the past, the gift shop sales produced a small portion of the museum's income. The shop is now making a substantial profit due to the hard work of museum volunteers Nancy Wilson, Terry Morris, Ron Kaup, and Sharon Drews.

The gift shop has been set up with a computerized inventory and sales tracking program which has helped determine which items will be available in the future.

The gift shop volunteers have worked with vendors to provide popular items and some new items, and there are also items available through consignment. Improvements to the museum's on site gift shop have been made, including additional display cases.

The museum's mobile gift shop accompanies the F-4 Photo Phantom on road trips to air shows and special events. The gift shop volunteers, along with Karen Wolf, have also been instrumental in the increase of special events at the museum, including: birthday parties, weddings, reunions, and other events.

Plans are in the works to post some gift shop items on the museum's website so purchases can easily be made online. Thanks to all the volunteers who work many hours to make the gift shop and special events an important part of the museum.

There are plenty of opportunities to help with upcoming events, some which are listed on page 3.

LOCKHEED T-33A 'SHOOTING STAR' USAF SERIAL NUMBER 55-3025 & NASA 512

by Greg Bastyr

Both the 109th and the 179th Squadrons of the Minnesota Air National Guard used T-33s at various times. The T-33A was developed from the Lockheed P-80/F-80 by lengthening the fuselage by slightly over three feet and adding a second seat, instrumentation and flight controls.

Originally designated the TF-80C, the T-33 made its first flight on March 22, 1948. A total number of 6,557 aircraft were produced. The T-33 was used as an advanced trainer. T-33s were assigned to USAF F-101, F-102 and F-106 units as well as similarly equipped Air National Guard units as proficiency trainers and practice (bogey) aircraft. Some T-33s retained two machine guns for gunnery training. The T-33 has served in over 30 nations and continues to operate as a trainer in smaller air forces.

Interesting Facts: The museum T-33A was once assigned to NASA and still retains the NASA 512 radio call sign on the instrument panel. Although it is not clear what its mission was with NASA, it could have very well have been flown by some of the early astronauts pioneering the U. S. space program.

T-33s assigned to NASA were used for support and flight research. One report shows this aircraft may have been assigned to the Marine Corps Aviation Museum at MCAS Quantico, Va. when that museum first started up in the late 1970s.

In the 1980s an attempt was made by Boeing to modify and modernize the T-33 as the Boeing Skyfox but a lack



Students and staff from STARBASE Minnesota admire the Minnesota ANG museum's T-33A in the airpark on Apr. 26, 2016. *photo by Mark Moss*

of orders canceled the project. About 70% of the T-33's airframe was retained in the Skyfox. A limited number of T-33s have found their way into private hands. In 2010 a T-33A owned by Boeing was used as a chase plane for the maiden flight of the Boeing 787 Dreamliner.

Cost: \$93,456

Crew: 2

Length: 37 Feet, 9 Inches

Wingspan: 38 Feet, 10.5 Inches

Height: 11 Feet, 8 Inches

Engine: Allison J33-A-35 Centrifugal Compressor

Turbojet with 5,400 pounds of thrust

Max Speed: 600 MPH

Range: 1,275 miles (ferry)

Service Ceiling: 48,000 Feet

Armament: 2 50 Cal Browning M3 machine guns, 350 rounds per gun (for AT-33), 2 wing hardpoints with a capacity of 2,000 pounds for bombs or rockets

Acquisition of Display Cases

by Mike Drews

On January 21 and 22 six volunteers took a road trip to Chanute AFB museum in Rantoul, Ill. Months earlier we learned that the Chanute museum was closing due to financial issues. Calls were made to the museum's curator inquiring what was going to happen with



New display cases being loaded at Chanute AFB on Jan. 21, 2016. *photo by George Brown*

their artifacts and other items. Unfortunately, many of the planes at Chanute were going to be scrapped out due to the high cost of moving the planes to other locations.

We were told that all the artifacts were spoken for but they did have display cases. Arrangements were made to rent a 26 foot truck and a car for the trip. The volunteers left Thursday the 21st at 4:00 a.m., arriving at 2:00 p.m. at Chanute AFB. The display cases were loaded on the truck and the volunteers were back on the road by 7:30 p.m. The group stayed in Bloomington, Ill. overnight and were back on the road at 4:30 a.m., arriving back at the Air Guard Museum by 2:00 p.m.

The volunteers' efforts allowed the museum to acquire five large cases and five medium-size cases. The large cases will be cleaned, refinished and modified to be used in the main lobby of our museum to display artifacts and the other cases will be used in the gift shop and other areas of the museum.

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Photo Phantom receives new paint for the summer season



The Maaco Burnsville crew poses with their work, the museum's F-4 cockpit 'Photo Phantom' on April 29, 2016 along with museum folks, after the jet received a new paint job.
photo by Mark Moss