



Museum News President's Propwash

Dan Petroff

The Annual Open House is over and while the gross income was down it appeared that people had a good time. We are still evaluating the net income. I would like to thank all the volunteers who made this event possible. Without them this event would not happen. This includes SCAPA, Boy and Girl Scouts, and our own members. Thank you! We had a number of sponsors this year that donated certificates for their products as well as funds. Thank you all.

We have several new volunteers at the museum, Ed Glynn helping in the prop shop, Harry Dawson (Uncle Harry) docent and general help, and Steve Iseman who is helping on the aircraft and any other area. We welcome them and hope they find us a rewarding place to hang out. From what I have seen they are quick learners and willing workers.

Robin came down to check Josh out on the Stinson and put some time on the engine. Unfortunately Josh was not able to make it so Robin putted around the patch to see how the plane handled. He said the engine ran fine and in general the aircraft handled well. He said that when he switched to the right tank the engine quit. There are a lot of red faces for missing that. We have a couple of squawks to fix and the aircraft will be ready to fly. Paul did the annual the Aeronca and noted a couple of squawks to be taken care of and it will be flying.

We are talking about having a summer BBQ for the members and offer flights in one of the aircraft charging only for the fuel. How does this sound? Call Susan and let her know. ❖

Museum News

On Wednesday, May 25th, 75 kids from Rucker School arrived for a field trip — accompanied by more than 25 parents and teachers! Thanks to Merle Ensign, Curt Geske, Vernon Hayashida, Keli McAlister, Peter and Susan Talbot, they had a great tour, built some paper airplanes and flew them after a snack on the front lawn. We've never tried to accommodate such a large number of people, and it worked very smoothly.

The teeter totter got quite a workout at the end. They were a very well-behaved and receptive group of kids; 3rd, 4th and 5th graders. ❖



Celebration of Dan Chauvet's Life

The EAA, 99s, WPA and the SMB QBs join together to announce the Celebration of Dan Chauvet's Life. Dan's friends are invited to come together at the EAA Hangar, located at 60 Aviation Way, Watsonville at 11am on Saturday, June 25, 2016 to celebrate Dan's life and share stories about this pillar of the Watsonville Aviation Community.

Please bring a potluck dish. At 11:30 the pot luck lunch will be served along with hamburgers and hot dogs served by the EAA.

After lunch, at 12:30, the West Coast Raven Formation Team will honor Dan with a Missing Man Flyover. Photos of the crowd will be taken at that time.

After the flyover, everyone is invited to share their favorite story about Dan. We will provide stories about the plethora of Dan's accomplishments and contributions to aviation in Watsonville and the entire state of California.

Anyone wishing to memorialize Dan is invited to make a contribution to the scholarship organization, PVAA, Pajaro Valley Aviation Academy. Dan was passionate about the PVAA and spearheaded the organization or many years. Please make contributions out to the following:

Pajaro Valley Aviation Academy

PO Box 2074, Freedom, CA 95019 ❖



Joseph "Joe" Szep

Joe, anaeronautics engineer, bibliophile, punster, accomplished traveler, and desert rat, died on Wednesday, March 16, 2016, two months after his 100th birthday.

Joe is survived by his loving daughter Mary Mingo, sister-in-law Georgia George, granddaughter Kendra Mingo and grandson-in-law David Craig, grandson Andy Mingo and granddaughter-in-law Lidia Yuknavitch and great grandson Miles Mingo. He is also survived by long-term friends and a grand extended family.

Joe loved the Sierra Nevada Mountains and deserts of the Southwest and Baja. In late 1950's and early 1960's he ran the Colorado River in wooden boats before the Grand Canyon river flows were controlled by the Glen Canyon Dam. He also hiked Mt. Whitney, the highest peak in the continental United States, seven times, the last time at age 70 with three generations of family. He was an active supporter of conservation groups including the Sierra Club, Sempevirens Fund, Yosemite Conservancy, and the Nature Conservancy. He also collected an extensive library of the Southwest that he donated to the Huntington Library's permanent collection.

He was a longtime volunteer and supporter of the Wings of History Aviation Museum and contributor to the Reno Aviation coffee klatch. He was an active traveler: he made a heritage tour to his emigrant parents' native Hungary in 2009, and participated on his 10th National Geographic Expedition in February 2016 whale watching in the Sea of Cortez. He loved sharing good jokes, bad puns, and interesting conversation with his family and friends. He never tired of asking people "Orange juice sorry you made me cry?" and referencing his wife Winnie as the "gorilla of my dreams."

He left this life satisfied and at peace, and will be deeply missed by all who knew him.

A private celebration of life gathering will be held in summer 2016. In lieu of flowers, the family suggests memorial contributions be made to the Wings of History Aviation Museum (wingsofhistory.org), Sempevirens Fund (sempevirens.org), or the National P-38 Association (p38assn.org/donations) in Joe's name. ❖



The Nichols

A letter the Museum received from Pat and Frank:

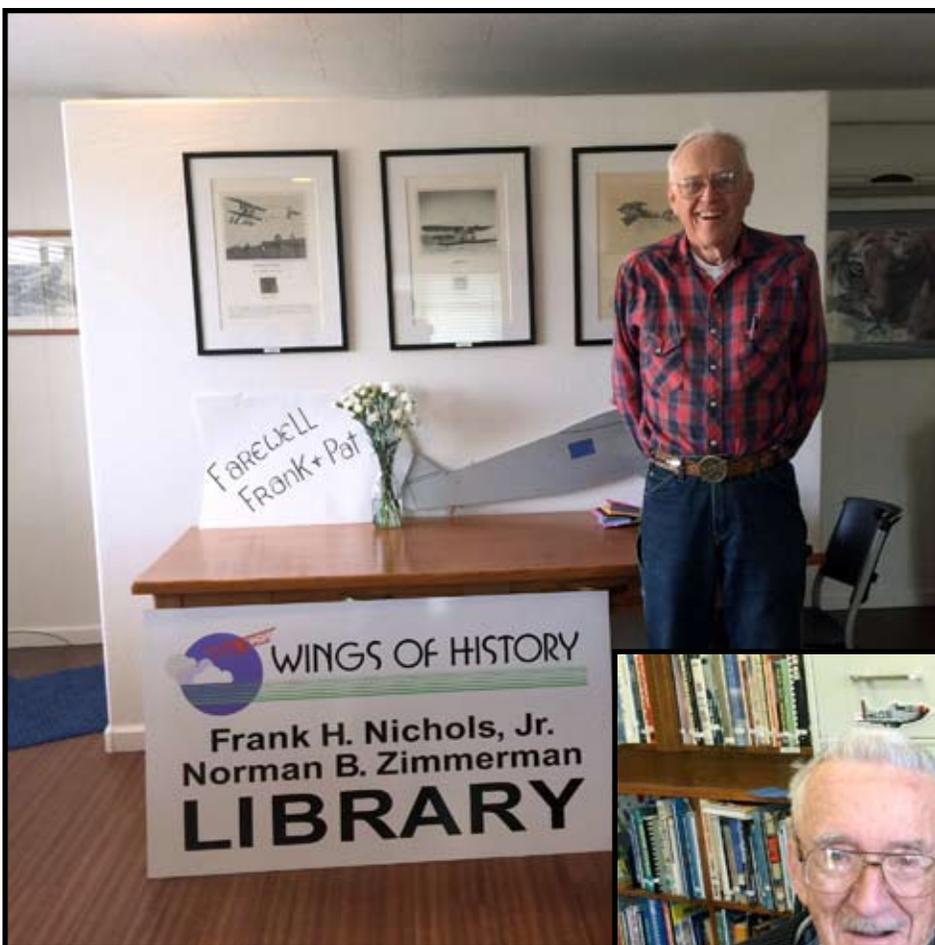
March 23, 2016

We wish to thank all of the Wings of History family, and the Talbots in particular, for the wonderful farewell party. We enjoyed it tremendously even though it represented the coming change in our lives. We are missing our weekly routine and good friends, but new experiences await. Frank is especially missing the library since it has been such a large part of his retirement years. The new library sign would take some getting used to after laboring in anonymity for so many years. Thank you all for the recognition. It is very much appreciated.

Well, it has been over two weeks since we left the Bay Area and we are still living amongst boxes and chaos. However, some organization and normalcy is beginning to emerge. We have had a fair amount of rain, but that is a good thing since it is keeping us inside where we can hope to sort out the boxes and place their contents. We are rather pleased with the Mountain Meadows community here and Ashland in general, but are still trying to get acclimated to our new environment. When the sun is shining it is glorious.

Best wishes to all.

Blue skies, Pat & Frank Nichols





This display was created and constructed by Joe Szep with lots of help from Lionel Mattos and Joe's daughter, Mary Mingo. Vernon Hayashida maintains the exhibit, repairing and arranging photos.

Some photos from our 16th Annual Open House



Vintage Flyer is published 4 times a year (March, June, September, December) for Wings of History members and others interested in aviation history and aircraft.

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WINGS OF HISTORY Mission Statement:
Wings of History is a non-profit organization dedicated to aviation history through education, preservation, restoration, and flight.

Please send address changes to the Wings of History
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This newsletter available on our website at wingsofhistory.org

Do you have an interesting story to tell? Send us your story and we'll consider it for publication in the *Vintage Flyer*. You can e-mail Evie Liebgold at evieliebgold@gmail.com. The deadline for articles is the 20th of the month preceding publication.

Please visit our website at <http://www.wingsofhistory.org>
 E-mail us at wohoffice@sbcglobal.net

Yearly dues: General \$40.00; Student \$10.00; Sustaining \$100.00







RAFFLE WINNERS!

