



PLANES OF FAME AIR MUSEUM

NEWS

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On display at the Planes of Fame, the B-17 "Piccadilly Lilly", currently being restored.

Photo By: Grant Millikan

SWAMP GHOST FUSELAGE ON DISPLAY AT CHINO

The forward fuselage of the famous B-17E Flying Fortress known as Swamp Ghost can be seen at Planes of Fame Chino, on loan from Fred Hagan and John Tallichet.

The aircraft landed in the Papua New Guinea swamp known as Agaiambo after being hit by ground fire and running out of fuel in February 1942, and there it rested until 2006. It took another four years for Hagan and his representatives to see it returned to the United States.

Papua New Guinea held a rich treasure trove of World War II era aircraft, but none attracted the attention that Swamp Ghost has. It took off from Australia on the first long-range bombing mission against the Japanese, intending to attack ships on Japanese-held New Britain. According to stories written about the mission, it encountered numerous mishaps including bad weather, bad maps, novice pilots and mechanical problems. At the target area, it

fought off Japanese Zeros, had its right wing shot through by an antiaircraft shell that didn't explode and then finally, it ran out of fuel.

Capt. Fred Eaton made a belly landing on what looked like a wheat field – pretty grass. Only the propellers were bent, and the nine crew members were all safe. However, upon opening the doors Captain Eaton and the others discovered they had landed in water, up to eight feet of it. It took them two days to reach dry land, hacking their way through kunai grass which was sharp as a razor.

Mosquito-bitten, sleep deprived and with some starting to hallucinate, they finally encountered some local villagers who helped them reach an Australian resident magistrate. Less than three months after the crash, they were back in combat.

The airplane lay hidden until Australian soldiers spotted it in 1972 and dubbed it "Swamp

Ghost." Over time, collectors stripped the airplane of instruments, guns and its flight yokes, according to an October 2007 article in Smithsonian Magazine, authored by John Darnton.

Hagan, owner of Aero Archaeology, obtained an export permit for the Swamp Ghost from New Guinea's National Museum and Art Gallery in November 2005 and with a crew of 43 people, including a B-17 mechanic, had it ready for return to the U.S. the following year. But, controversy arose over its departure and that lasted until 2010 when it was finally cleared.

On June 11, 2010, salvage team members and aviation historians welcomed the aircraft back at Long Beach, California. Thanks to Hagan and John Tallichet, president and CEO of Specialty Restaurants, the large forward fuselage is available for all to see at Planes of Fame Chino.



PICCADILLY LILLY RETURNING TO FLIGHT CONDITION

Piccadilly Lilly II provides a welcome sight for visitors at the entrance to Planes of Fame Chino but she also is undergoing a restoration to flight condition.

The B-17G aircraft, #44-83684, was the last active B-17 Flying Fortress bomber in the U.S. Air Force and retired in 1959 after nine years as a DB-17P drone director. She became part of the Planes of Fame collection in September 1959. Founder Ed Maloney put her to work as she appeared in TV's "Dick Powell Theater" in a program about the 100th Bomb Group (called the Bloody Hundredth). She became known as Piccadilly Lilly II when she was used in the popular 1960's TV series "12 O'Clock High." It last flew in 1971.

The current B-17 restoration team was put together in late 2008 and has made steady progress since then. During the past year, significant repairs were completed in the waist, radio room and tail sections while both the top and ball turrets were restored. In addition, the radio room components and floor were restored and are ready for installation while the engines and propellers were cleaned and painted. The aircraft is open to visitors.

COUPLE SELECTS PoF IN ESTATE PLANNING



Photo By: Britt Dietz

Linda & Charlie De Long in front of the Planes of Fame's P-51 "Wee Willie".

Linda and Charlie De Long started coming to Planes of Fame Chino more than 10 years ago and "almost immediately became members," attending the monthly symposiums and air shows as often as possible. Now they have taken steps to insure those opportunities are here for future generations.

In their fifties and with thoughts of the future, the De Longs felt it was time to develop a trust. Without children, they each made a list of where they want their inheritance to go. Planes of Fame, along with other nonprofits like St. Jude Memorial Foundation, came up on the lists.

Once the trust was finalized, Linda called the museum as well as others designated to let them know.

"It's about legacy. We both have an appreciation for aviation and history," says Linda. "Charlie wanted to be a pilot and is fascinated with World War II history. We love this place."

"Being able to see and hear the people who flew these planes personally is very special," she adds, saying that she and Charlie attended the Taste of Flight fundraiser in October 2010 and had a great time.

Although neither has worked in aviation, the De Longs both love being in the audience to hear about the aircraft featured at the monthly symposiums and then stepping outside to hear the engines start and watch

the featured aircraft fly overhead. Charlie is also very interested in the monthly member drawings for rides in one of the vintage aircraft.

"He finally won a drawing – for a ride in the P-51 last year," Linda said. "That did it," she says. Between the ages of 12 and 14, Charlie spent summers with an Air Force couple in Las Vegas. There he visited Nellis Air Force base and had the opportunity to get in the cockpit of a F-105 Thunderchief and F-4 Phantom. This experience reinforced and accelerated his love of aircraft.

Linda has recently completed her doctorate

President's Message



Steve Hinton, with the Planes of Fame's silver Bearcat.

We frequently hear visitors comment on the changes the museum has made in recent years. They'll tell us "when we first came here, the gift shop was in a little trailer," or "I remember when some of these airplanes were parked in an orchard in Claremont." You can take credit for the changes.

Certainly we are proud of how the Planes of Fame collection appears today, of the displays of aircraft and memorabilia which stretch through some 100,000 square feet of covered space in Chino with another 37,000 square feet of hangared displays in Valle, Arizona. We are also very proud of the more than 100 flyable and static display aircraft in the collection.

As members and volunteers, you can be proud of what has been accomplished as well. Planes of Fame is in its 54th year of "Keeping Em Flying" and we are very thankful for the tremendous support we have received. We are thankful for the County of San Bernardino and Chino Airport for their contributions to our success and for our donors at all levels, as well as members and volunteers. Much of what we accomplish in

terms of programs, restorations and flying would be impossible without the dedicated volunteers who comprise the Planes of Fame family.

We never forget that none of this would be possible without all of you.

2011 is no different than other years in that we plan to "Keep Em Flying," while providing more new and interesting experiences for our members and visitors. The year started with two programs in January – the Focke Wulf 190 featured in the Living History event and a special program on the Wright Brothers and the First Military Aircraft. We have events each month like this.

Air Show 2011 will celebrate the 100th Anniversary of United States Naval Aviation. Scheduled for May 14 and 15, we look forward to an amazing show which will provide both educational and exhilarating experiences for our audience.

But, the most encouraging part of it all is that you have made it possible – and will make it possible – for Planes of Fame to get better and better. On behalf of the Board of Directors and staff, please accept a heartfelt thank you.

Keep 'em flying!

Steve Hinton
President


PLANES OF FAME
AIR MUSEUM

in Education at the University of La Verne, where she is an adjunct professor of management and part of the administration. Charlie works for Corona-Norco Unified Schools as a computer technician.

"In my studies, we looked at the importance of giving back and having a sense of community," Linda explains. "That's a big part of what has inspired us in selecting Planes of Fame in our trust."

Various options for including the museum in estate plans can be found on the website, planesoffame.org. Estate planners can also be helpful in designating Planes of Fame in creative ways.



BIRTHDAY VISIT INSPIRES PAPPAS FAMILY TO VOLUNTEER

Justin Pappas' thirteenth birthday visit to Planes of Fame Chino evolved into a gift for the entire family, as well as the museum.

On that visit nearly four years ago, Justin told his father, Dean, that he wanted to volunteer at the museum. Since he was under 16, volunteering meant he needed to be accompanied by a parent. Thus, the Pappas family of volunteers was born. Justin's older brother Keith came on two years ago.

"What's so amazing about this family is they are willing to do anything, whatever is needed," says Brian Boyer, General Manager. "Even in the pouring rain when we had a drain plugged in the storage yard, they walked up and started helping, without being asked."

Father Dean is employed in maintenance and construction for Los Angeles County, but his real thrill at Chino is working on

the B-17 Piccadilly Lilly. As a child he saw her on the 12 O'Clock High television series. Keith is known as a "whiz on computers," but he is mostly into building and fixing things as a volunteer at Chino. He is studying computers and engineering

who may be busy working on an airplane, will stop and explain things."

Dean says it gets emotional when they see the P-51, B-17, Corsair and other airplanes they have been around at the museum

on television, "it's like there's my airplane. Being a detailer, the planes become personal. I love them all."

Sons Justin and Keith are amazed they can touch and work on history. "There is so much history in one spot; airplanes from all over the world," Keith says while Justin adds that being involved in history is his passion as well. He has excited one of his high school teachers to come out and volunteer.



Photo By: Brian Boyer

Family Time - (left to right) Keith, Dean, & Justin Pappas volunteering their time to work on the "Piccadilly Lilly" B-17 restoration project.

at Mount San Antonio College while Justin is in a charter school in Chino.

"I have never worked in a place where the people are so nice. They are like a family," says Dean. "Even Steve Hinton,

"I just want to thank everybody here for letting us volunteer," says Dean after acknowledging his wife, Denise, deserves thanks for letting them come out every weekend while she takes care of the home and the dogs.

2011 AIR SHOW TO RECOGNIZE 100th NAVAL ANNIVERSARY

Plans are underway for Air Show 2011, with which the County of San Bernardino and Planes of Fame will commemorate the 100th anniversary of U.S. Naval Aviation. The annual air show is scheduled for May 14 and 15 at Chino and will feature aircraft used by the United States during the last century. Keep checking www.planesoffame.org for the latest

announcements about the show.

The Centennial of Naval Aviation, as it is being called nationally, recalls the humble beginnings of the Navy's flight program in 1911, and it includes flight programs in three branches of military service – the Navy, the Marine Corps and the Coast Guard.

Sponsorships and vendor booths are available for the show which drew some 40,000 in 2010. For information on sponsorships, contact Karen Hinton at 909-597-4754 or look at the Air Show section on our website. Advance sale tickets will be available on that website starting on April 1, 2011.



Photos By: Britt Dietz





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