

Museum Musings

By Betty Miller

Summer is almost here...we had the hot weather, a spat of winter (again!) But we really will have our hot weather again very soon.

The Museum is a nice cool spot for those summer days. We have some new Docent Volunteers and a class will be starting the end of May-first part of June to get them started. We still need more folks, so call me at **466-1212** and lets get you trained!

We have a great collection of pistols and rifles on loan to the Museum & they are up in the new gun case. We are still waiting for a covering to keep dust and hands from touching these items which go from the Civil War to the present!

The MASH display will be undergoing some freshening this month and the Chaplain Exhibit will be expanded—**watch us grow!**

We have new items that we are receiving almost on a weekly basis, so your Museum is never static. Please remember to call us at 466-1212, ***before*** you pack up Grandpa Jones' WW II items to bring in...we may already have the same thing and our storage space is getting tight.

Charmaine and Don Peckinpaugh and myself hosted a tour for 25 members of the Cal Poly Senior Education program-OSHER- in May. We gave them a in-depth tour of Freedom Hall, the aircraft, and included the new Research Library. We also had them complete a "How did we do" form at the end of their 2 _ hours to gauge the public responses. I am happy to report that they were extremely enthusiastic and had some great ideas! These were all submitted anonymously to be sure we got their true feelings. All but 1 person were from the South County and had not been aware that the North County had anything like this.

I have been asked to host a similar group from Cal Poly in 2009 and we will be involving more of our Docents to be able to divide these folks into small groups.

Freedom Hall will be undergoing some layout changes in June. We desperately need more wall display space and will have to construct some new divider walls to handle it. I will be calling on some of you with carpenter skills to help out!

I have been visiting other aircraft and historical museums to get some ideas and we will be implementing some of these. It is really hard to keep up our goal of a first class museum versus a "collection of stuff" with the \$2000.00 annual budget we have been allotted. If you feel we need to add something, ask me for the particulars on cost and labor hours and perhaps we can work something out!

We had hoped to have the long discussed mural on the north wall completed by now. However it appears to have become a victim of the current financial times and will be shelved for the time being. Perhaps we will be able to get someone interested in donating the necessary funds for the artist in the years to come.

Carol Weiss and I continue to plug away to make your Museum a place to learn from and be proud of and we certainly appreciate all your support to help us accomplish this.

Remember Summer Hours—Friday & Saturday 10am to 4pm, and Sunday from 12 noon to 4 pm!

Betty Miller - 466-1212

Carol Weiss - 239-2637

Freedom Hall Curators