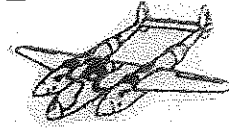
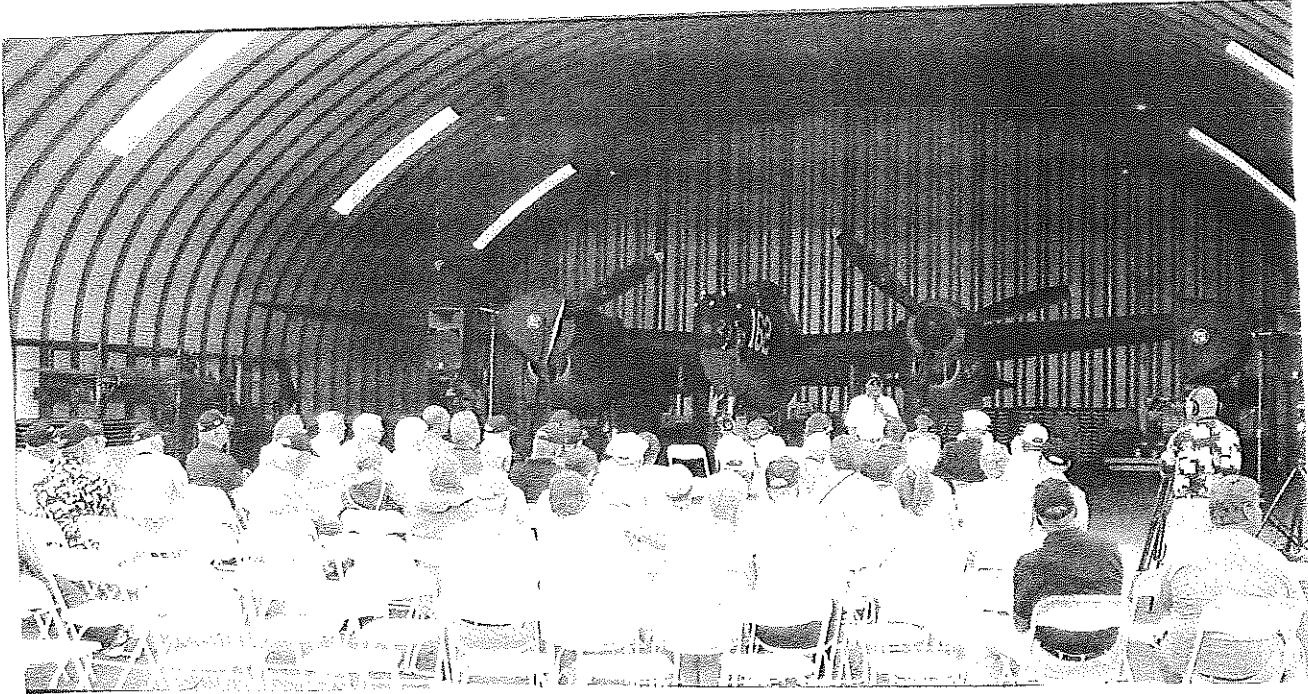




475TH FIGHTER GROUP NEWSLETTER

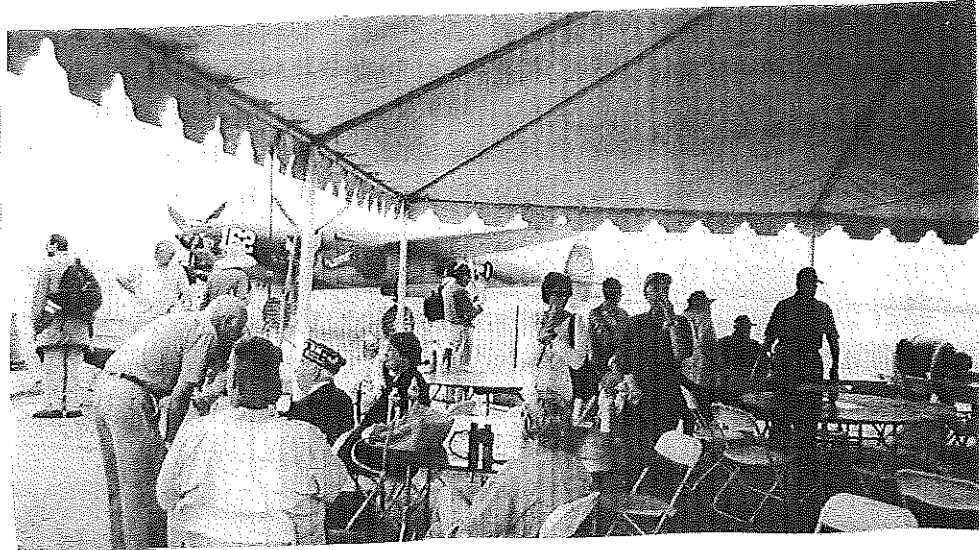


2007



The 475th Fighter Group reunion, May 2007 at Ontario, California is history. What a great show Bobbie & Lee Northrop put together. About 120 registered members and guests. The highlight was the Planes of Fames air show on Saturday with gaggles of WWII and current war birds flying, to include a formation of three, count em, three P-38s; our "23" Skidoo, and the Glacier Girl both in camouflage paint and one all silver bird. Didn't Lee do a great job on the nose art and paint job on Skidoo?

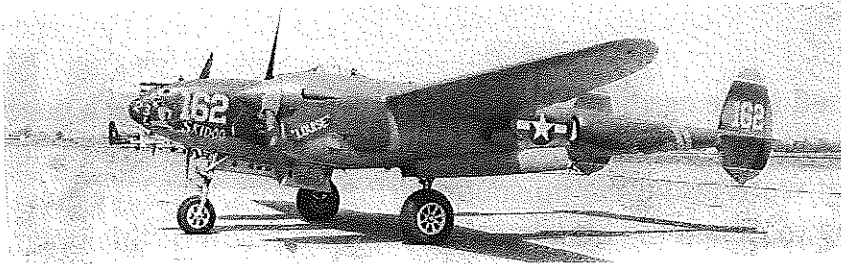
We also had the formal dedication ceremony for the opening of our museum. Due to conditions beyond our control we are about 18 months behind schedule. The Planes of Fame folks had to clear up some zone/permit problems before Lee and his crew could proceed with putting up the building. But at least everyone had a chance to see the structure and of course ole "23" Skidoo in 432nd/457th colors as the center of attraction.



Tom Oxford had his whole tribe there as usual. The young ladies are getting prettier every year. It was a treat to see Pat. Of course, Howard and Ruth Max were on board with their relatives and guests. Rod, Howard's son has been an active contributor and has attended several of our reunions along with his beautiful wife. They always have such a good time. PJ and Bobbie had six friends from their Tampa church in attendance. PJ & Bobbie's son Jeff was there. Jeff does construction in California and Lee is going to press him into service to assist Lee's son David Northrop at the museum.

Harold "HD" Owens came for the first time. Harold is still showing some effects from a couple of strokes and was in a wheel chair, but that did not hold him back. He was a hell of a fighter pilot and is still a fighter. After his graduation from TCU, he was honored as being one of the top ten in the oil industry in the state of Texas. Like so many others, Hal responded big time when we went out for funds for our museum.

Marvin and Pat Rose made the scene again. He had undergone a rather routine operation that became not so routine when he developed some infection complications. It was nip and tuck as to whether he could recover in time to make the reunion, but here is another fighter. He came, and being the perpetual comedian, had to grab the mike to roast PJ. Did a good job too.



It was nice to see some widows of our fallen warriors, Carol Gray, Earlene Jeakle, Theresa Spezzano, Carol Farris and others. Mortimer Gladstone, the cat fish guru, along with Seymore Prell and Ruth; and Tom and Barbara Simms, helped keep everybody in conversation in our hospitality rooms. Theresa was a big help assisting Bobbie Dahl at the registration desk. And, of course, old friend Iris Chritchell graced us with her presence.

It gives you a good feeling when you realize the number of 475th members and friends who have contributed funds to our renewed efforts to acquire some very expensive state of the art displays for our museum. Donations ranged from over \$20,000 to \$50. The great thing is not just the amounts but the number of individuals who have participated.

The Board of Trustees voted to retain the current trustees and the officers to remain the same except for the treasurer. Mike Mulady, Johnnie's grandson will officially take over as treasurer. Mike has been working with Johnnie for some time and is putting our financial statements into the computer to provide immediate access. PJ, in his capacity as president, will be in the loop and able to get a look at our income and expenditures on-line.

Regarding access to the planes of Fame Museum complex for 475th members; those who would like a life time pass, please contact PJ Dahl. There will be no charge to individuals, however there will be an expense associated with acquiring the cards; so unless you plan to visit frequently, there is no need to have the card. After seeing what kind of interest we have, negotiations will begin with Planes of Fame Air Museum directors.