



## **SCHAF Newsletter for December, 2019**

**Reminder: The next SCHAF Open House will take place on Saturday, Dec 14, 2019 from 10am-1pm at Hangar Y-1 Hamilton/Owens Airport.**

### **Foundation Happenings**

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of original SCHAF board member, Xen Motsinger. Xen served in WWII as an aviation cadet in the Army Air Corp. In 1965, Xen founded and was a charter member of EAA Chapter 242 located at the Hamilton/Owen's Field Airport. He was passionate about aviation and teaching aviation to our youth. Below are two pictures of Xen.

As Ron Shelton described him, "Xen was a person who was not only willing but delighted, when given the opportunity to help with both public and personal projects. He always made himself available even on short notice to spend much time assisting others and showed much caring, kindness and enthusiasm throughout the process or activity."



## History of GF2

We are continuing to share some old Index-Journal newspaper articles that tell the history of GF2. We are forever thankful to the Index-Journal for sending us these articles. During the week leading up to the recovery of GF2, there were several days of articles about the efforts. There is so much great information that we will spread these articles across the next few newsletters. We hope you are enjoying reading these articles as much as we love them. If you would like to read the entire articles, stop by the hangar.

Aug 1, 1983 - "The diving work will be done by a Naval Reserve team from Norfolk, VA as part of its two-week summer training. The job will also involve Duke Power and some local contractors who will provide barges, cranes and other equipment."

Aug 2, 1983 – There is a picture of some artifacts recovered from the plane along with the caption: "John Cooper – diving supervisor of the Naval Reserve team from Norfolk, VA, views a parachute and machine gun turret taken from the B-25 'Mitchell' bomber resting on the bottom of Lake Greenwood.....The salvage operation of the old bomber has spawned wide-felt interest, which turned the project into a community effort."

Rain slowed down but did not dampen the spirits of the recovery of GF2. Here are some excerpts from the Aug 2 article itself: "Divers are removing about two feet of mud and silt from the bottom of the fuselage today in preparation for the lift scheduled to be made from a Duke Power barge. Visibility around the plane is said to be from one to two feet." The diving officer, Clyde Y Shiraki provided some information about the condition of GF2. "He added that the port engine is gone, but the other is intact. Shiraki said a large section of sheet metal on the bottom of the plane is missing, probably torn off on impact."

## Veteran's Day Parade in Lexington

Our very own Ron Skipper is pictured driving his 1941 Chevy truck in the Lexington Veteran's Day Parade. During special events, Ron brings his truck to the hangar. You may have seen it.



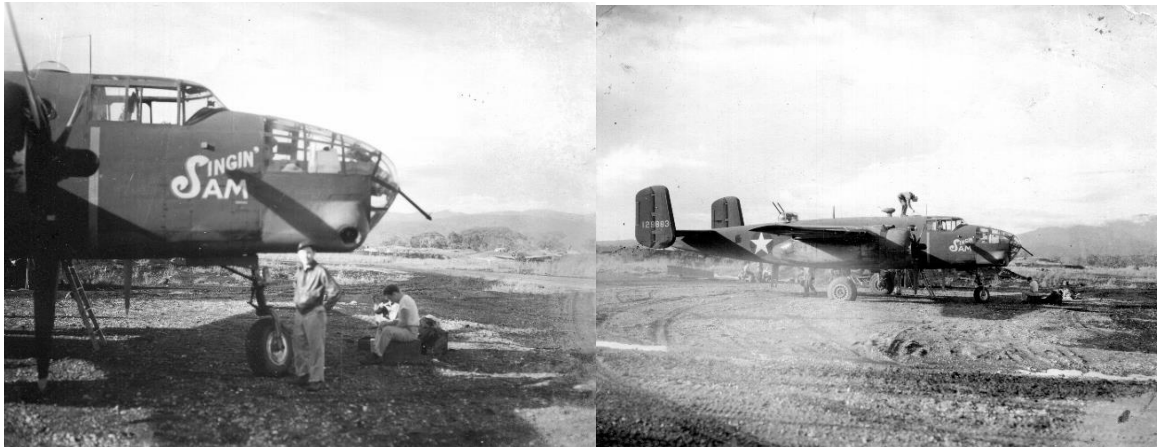
SCHAF would like to thank all veterans for their service. We hope everyone had a great Veteran's Day.

## Previous Donation to SCHAF

We have a collection of pictures from the Gambrell estate that were donated by Dave McIntosh. Joe recently scanned some of the pictures for us to share with all of you. These pictures show the B-25D named Singin' Sam. As you can tell, the nose of this B-25 looks a little strange. It is outfitted with photography equipment.

The following information is quoted from the B-25 History website: [www.b-25history.org](http://www.b-25history.org)

At the time the United State entered World War II, the importance of aerial photography was known. A significant portion of the world had not been scientifically charted. Many of the existing maps were inadequate or just inaccurate. In 1942, the trimetrogon camera system was developed. Utilizing mainly 3 synchronized K-17 six inch cameras, the trimetrogon system allowed for easy photo mapping of large areas in a short period of time. The stability of the B-25 made it not only an excellent bomber, but also an excellent choice for aerial photography. A single B-25D/T-10-NC flying at 200 mph could map 20,000 square miles in four hours.....Between 1942 and 1943, a total of 50 B-25D-NC bombers were converted into B-25D/T-10-NC aircraft.



## Odds and Ends

Do any of you remember building lego sets as a child? Well, there is a relatively new kid in town called COBI building blocks. They have a historical collection featuring all sorts of WWII vehicles from planes to tanks. They even make a B-25 model! Add this to your wish list to Santa!





SCHAF wants to wish everyone a happy and safe holiday season. In preparation for our next open house, we have turned GF2 into Rudolph. It is a little hard to see the antlers in this picture. We still have a little “tweaking” to do to make “Rudolph” look great for our next open house on Dec 14<sup>th</sup>.



If you have something you would like to share in a future newsletter, please send an email directly to SCHAF at [info.schaf@gmail.com](mailto:info.schaf@gmail.com).

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