

UPDATE # 116 - “CITY OF SAVANNAH”
B-17 Restoration
April 3, 2012

We have to apologize for the long delay in the arrival of this Update. Things have been very busy at the Museum and we have also lost several key members of the management team. Hopefully we are finally catching up with the administrative chores associated with the project.

Work continues from the nose of the aircraft to the tail turret. The Wednesday Night Riders are meeting weekly with our Gulfstream “Metal Man”, Jim Moriarty (with no “i” – really), to complete the reconstruction of the nose of the *City*. Jim reports that placement of the new metal supports in the nose will take place in the next few weeks. Our own John Finch is constructing the ring that will support the chin turret. Meanwhile, at the other end of the airplane, Jack Nilsen has begun the disassembly of the Grissom AFB Cheyenne tail turret so that he can make templates and finish the construction of our turret.



Jack Nilsen and Jim Odom removing the greenhouse structure
from the Grissom AFB Cheyenne turret on loan to the *City of Savannah*

The wings of the aircraft have been seeing a great deal of action in the last few weeks. The Special Projects team, led on this occasion by Paul Abare, completed a de-fogging of the *City's* gas tanks



Paul Abare in his formal de-fogging paraphernalia.

Meanwhile, the Saturday crew's electricians have been working for several weeks to get the landing lights operating. More ladders have been standing in the wing area as the Wednesday Day Crew completed painting the propellers. Decals and yellow paint on the tips will be the final step in this process.

Several Updates ago we mentioned that Wednesday Day Crew member Bud Curry had discovered replica rubber strips that would be ideal for *City's* de-icing boots. Paul Abare was familiar with the rubber strips in question and contacted his brother at the family homestead in New Hampshire. Presto, all the required rubber was delivered to the Museum, at no charge. A major **THANK YOU** goes out to the Abare family for this generous gift. The boots are already installed on the horizontal stabilizers and will soon appear on the rudder and wings.



The Wednesday Day Crew mounting the first de-icing boot.
(L to R) Milt Strombler, Danny Harden, Bud Curry and Darrell Schwartz

Wednesday, March 28th, saw a big event for the Wednesday Day Crew with a visit to the Mighty Eighth by our favorite WWII 8th Air Force author, Donald Miller, and his wife Rose. The Millers were passing through Savannah and stopped to visit old friends at the Museum. Don had spent a great deal of time in the Museum's library and archives researching for, in our opinion, the finest history ever written on the subject of the 8th Air Force in World War II – Masters of the Air (a must read for all *City of Savannah* supporters). After meeting with Museum CEO Henry Skipper, our Project Manager, Jerry McLaughlin, took Don and Rose on a tour of the Combat Gallery and the interior of the *City*. Everyone met again in Henry's office before Don and Rose returned to I-95. Before the visitors left plans were made for a delegation from the Mighty Eighth to meet Don in New Orleans next December for the WWII Museum's second of four World War II 70th Anniversary symposia (symposiums?? ...who knows?).

More to come . . .