

UPDATE #9 – “CITY OF SAVANNAH”

April 24, 2009

We are going to begin this week's update with the good news that the museum is having one of its best months in recent history with regard to the number of visitors coming through the door!!! We believe that much of this increase in visitors is due to the presence of the “City of Savannah”. This calls for a major *Thank You* to those of you who are actually working on the aircraft, and also to those of you who are standing by to help when your time comes. Our B-17 is creating quite a stir in Savannah. You can expect a great deal of media coverage on the status of the project in the coming weeks.

The soon to be famous steam cleaner is our next subject. It seems that the company that wanted to loan us a cleaner only had power washers available. We had already tried using power washing to clean the under surfaces of the aircraft's wings – with little success. It has been decided that with all the work still to come on the “City”, and with other jobs around the museum requiring heavy duty cleaning, that it will be cheaper to buy a machine of our own. The new steam cleaner will get here next week – hopefully in time for the Wednesday crew to use it when they come in that morning. Meanwhile the prep work on cleaning the fuselage is nearly completed. It is anticipated that Steve Ward and his polishing crew from International Aero Services will begin work right on schedule during the first week in May. Hopefully with the help of the new steam cleaner we will have the wings ready for IAS shortly thereafter.

Last week we asked for volunteers from our standby list who would like to work with the public to explain what is going on with the restoration during Wednesday working hours. The increase in visitor traffic has made this job a real necessity. We have one volunteer coming in for orientation next Wednesday. Let's give him some friends to work with from among those of you reading this. The job requires 3-4 hours each Wednesday, during which you will field questions from the public about the plane and the restoration process. We will supply you with a project shirt, badge and plenty of info for you to use in your discussions. Please call Sheila Saxon if you can help. She can be reached at 912-748-8888.

Also this week, the three Senior Volunteers from the project, Jerry McLaughlin, Marshall Brooks and Jim Grismer gave a presentation to the 8th Air Force Historical Society on the status of the project. Jerry talked about the history of the aircraft, Marshall talked about his experience in working with the crew that brought the aircraft from Virginia to Savannah, and Jim talked about the current and future hands-on portion of the restoration.

We have to send out a major *Thank You* to volunteer David Pinegar and his employer, LMI Aerospace, Inc. David has been spending all of his lunch hours for the last three months at the museum doing work on the fabric covered control surfaces of the “City”. When he gets back to work he apparently talks about what he is doing, which has resulted in LMI sending over a truck this past Wednesday to take the “City's” rudder back to their facility to be refinished and painted. This is another great example of community support for our project.

Still no word on how the “City” got from the Arctic to the Antarctic (twice), but we're working on it.

More to come...



"This picture of our B-17 was taken in 1956 on Baffin Island when Kenting Aviation was involved with the project to construct the DEW (Distant Early Warning) Line across Canada to spot a possible Russian bomber attack on the United States."