



**ANA PATRIOT SQUADRON - SHEA NAVAL AVIATION MUSEUM
QUARTERLY MEMBERS' NEWSLETTER**

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Welcome to the latest edition of the ANA Patriot Squadron and Shea Naval Aviation Museum Quarterly Members' Newsletter. This newsletter is distributed via e-mail on or about the first day of March, June, September, and December. The purpose of the newsletter is to help familiarize members who can't attend our monthly meetings with what's happening within the squadron and at the museum and perhaps inspire everyone to take a more active role in this organization.

RECENT NEWS:

As you should know, your PAO (who produces this newsletter, among other things) intended to resign from all official roles in the Patriot Squadron effective December 31st. I have been the PAO for at least twelve years and I have to move on. Although I gave a year's notice, and made many requests for somebody to take over, nobody did. During the member's meeting on January 27th an attempt was made to solicit volunteers or nominations for a new PAO. When nobody volunteered or nominated anybody, Wally Massenburg offered to perform the PAO's tasks on an "interim basis" until somebody else can be found to take over permanently. Since Wally Massenburg is already overloaded with what should be two separate jobs within the group, membership and finance, your PAO decided to stay on, but only on an interim basis. At this point, we do not know what "interim basis" means, but I can't do this for much longer. If you value the PAO function, then you should consider taking it over. Your current PAO has too much going on professionally and personally, and he needs to cut back on his obligations. Somebody needs to step forward and take on the PAO role.

Wally Massenburg has formed a committee to review the options for the Shea Naval Aviation Museum. As you know, the Patriot Squadron has been trying for many years, with limited success, to

establish a museum at Union Point dedicated to preserving the history and heritage of NAS South Weymouth and its Quincy predecessor NAS Squantum. For a time we operated the museum out of the former base gymnasium building. This was never intended to be a permanent venue for the museum, but it worked OK. Unfortunately, in June 2017 the previous master developer at Union Point evicted us from the old base gymnasium, and the collection has been in storage since then.

The objective of the committee is to review the various options available regarding the Shea Naval Aviation Museum and make a recommendation to the larger group before the end of this year. As of now, the committee is composed of the following members:

- Donald Canaday
- Steve Cohn
- Albert Firnrohr
- Marc Frattasio
- Brian Haley
- Paul Haley
- Bill Sargent
- Frank Ward



The photo presented above shows the first committee meeting, which was held at the SRA meeting room at Union Point on Saturday February 24th before the regular member's meeting. If anybody else would like to join the committee, contact Wally Massenburg at wallymassenburg@comcast.net.

As reported previously, the city of Weymouth intends to establish a veteran's memorial museum in the old VFW building at 601 Broad Street. Actually, it appears that they intend to establish a veteran's center that will house offices for various veterans' services and they would like to provide space for displays of artifacts and photos associated with local military history. We were asked to participate in this project. In fact, this will be one of the options that Wally Massenburg's committee will evaluate regarding the museum. Harrison Carter, a town official who is involved with this project, came to the holiday luncheon at the Abington Ale House on December 9th. He was supposed to come to the meeting on January 27th to present to the Patriot Squadron, but was unable to make it.

We intended to submit an application to the City of Weymouth by the middle of February seeking a historical preservation grant to bridge the gap between what we raised for the aircraft and sign restoration efforts at the Shea Memorial Grove and the total amount required. Since our cost estimates are nearly a year old, and inflation is high, the costs have increased. We must seek enough money to complete the work, and can't do this until we know what the cost will be. The application package is basically complete, except for costs, and it includes many letters of support from Weymouth residents. We are presently seeking updated cost estimates, both for the aircraft and the signs, and we won't be able to submit the application until we get them. Please note that we think we have a very good handle on the aircraft painter but we are having problems with the signs. If you know anybody who might be able to restore or replace the signs, please reach out to us as soon as possible. We really want to get everything lined up so we can 1) apply for the historical preservation grant and 2) get the work done before the end of this summer.



On Saturday December 9th nearly 30 Patriot Squadron members and guests met at the Abington Ale House restaurant for our annual holiday luncheon. The photo presented above shows the two tables that we reserved near the fireplace.

Member Claudette Shea's daughter Chrissy Pitts, the granddaughter of CDR John J. Shea for whom the Shea Naval Aviation Museum, Shea Memorial Grove, Shea Memorial Drive, Shea Field, etc., are named for, recently gave a presentation on her famous grandfather at Marshfield High School. You can see her presentation on YouTube by searching for "Lessons Learned from WW2 & Why It Matters Today". There are a number of presenters in this video, but Chrissy is the first one up to the podium. You can see her about ten minutes in. Check it out. She did a very good job.

COMING UP:

The Brunswick Naval Aviation Museum was supposed to sponsor a base reunion at old NAS Brunswick, ME in September 2023. This event had to be cancelled a day or two before it was supposed to happen due to a hurricane. The Brunswick Naval Aviation Museum intends to try again this year over the weekend of Friday, Saturday, and Sunday September 13-15. There will be events scheduled for each day of the reunion, with the main one being a classic Maine lobster banquet (lobster, clams, and steak) on Saturday evening. The US Navy and possibly Canadian Forces are expected to bring aircraft for static display. More details will be provided as the event approaches.

HELP WANTED:

As of now, the only major leadership role in this organization that needs to be filled is the public relations officer or PAO. Again, the incumbent (me) has only agreed to continue on temporarily. Somebody needs to step forward to take this on. Here is what the PAO is supposed to do:

- Produce this newsletter four times per year (March, June, September, December)
- Produce articles for Wings of Gold magazine four times per year on their editorial schedule
- Maintain the Patriot Squadron web site and handle the relationship with web service provider GoDaddy.Com
- Handle all public correspondence

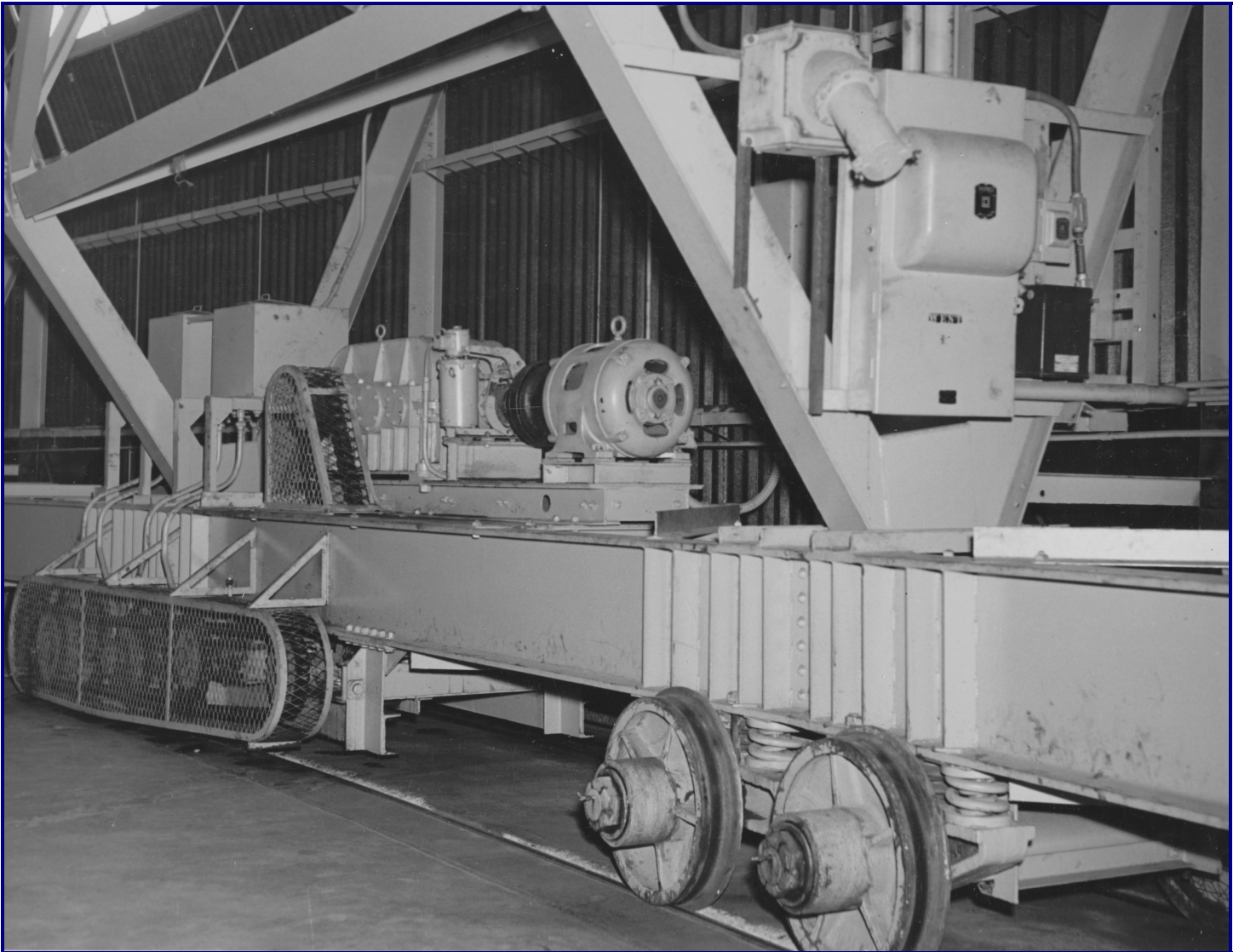
The PAO does other things too, but the tasks in the list presented above are the primary responsibilities. If anybody out there would like to take this role on, please speak up during any of our monthly meetings.

As previously reported, we've got a missing pulley on the flagpole at the Shea Memorial Grove. It has to be replaced, but the SRA will not allow us to put a ladder on the flagpole due to safety concerns. We have to use something that's self-supporting, such as a scaffold or a cherry picker. If anybody in the Weymouth area has something that could be used to replace the pulley on the flagpole please reach out to us via e-mail at inquiries@anapatriotquadron.org or talk to any of our directors at an upcoming meeting.

The USS Salem has told us that they have more material to give to us for the Shea Naval Aviation Museum's collection. The ship is closed for the winter season and after they open up again in the spring we'll be looking for some volunteers with trucks or vans to help bring this material from the ship to our storage area in Building 140 on Union Point.

Again, we are looking for somebody who can either restore or replace the three large blue and gold signs at the Shea Memorial Grove park at Union Point. We think the ideal candidate will be a woodworker or handyman. Based upon our experience with sign shops, most do not appear to be capable of doing the work we need. What's needed above all for the job are woodworking skills.

DID YOU KNOW?



One of the many stories told about NAS South Weymouth over the years is that the huge clamshell doors on either end of the old steel blimp hangar, LTA Hangar One, drew so much power that it was either prohibitively expensive to open and close the doors and/or the power company had to be informed in advance any time the doors had to be opened or closed. This simply was not true. The doors were actually operated by small electric locomotives of the kind used in mines, steel mills, and other large industries. The electric motors on these locomotives drew 600 Volt DC power, just like a trolley car, of which there were hundreds in the Boston area. The electric company would never notice that these things were energized. Here is a photo showing one of the adapted electric locomotives on one of the hangar doors. The entire locomotive mechanism was secured to the bottom part of the door, minus the frame and the carbody, which were not required. You can see the motor, the transmission, and the geared mechanism that drove the flanged railroad wheels on the curved section of standard-gauge railroad track upon which the doors moved back and forth. You can still see some of this track embedded into the concrete at the site of LTA Hangar One at Union Point today.

A WINDOW INTO THE PAST:



Here is a view taken inside NAS South Weymouth's LTA Hangar One in 1956 showing two Naval Air Development Unit ZPG-2 type blimps along with a variety of aircraft assigned to NADU and the base aircraft pool.

