

DELANDINGS



DeLand Naval Air Station Museum, DeLand, Florida

August 2015

HEADSTONE MYSTERY—WHY TWO?

AFTER 17 YEARS—More Details Finally Discovered

FROM COLUMBUS OHIO TO DeLAND FLORIDA AIRPORT

(How and Why Did One of the Headstones End up in DeLand?)



ABOVE LEFT: HEADSTONE ABANDONED IN DELAND FLORIDA IN 1998. RIGHT: HEADSTONE LOCATED ON GRAVE IN COLUMBUS OHIO, GREEN LAWN CEMETERY IN 2015.

In 1998, the City of DeLand Police Department received an anonymous call advising that a grave stone had been abandoned on the side of the road near Old Daytona Road and Parade Circle near the DeLand Municipal Airport. The headstone, a rectangular marble slab 13" wide and 4" thick was located and transported to the City Airport Maintenance Shop. The City Staff at that time started a search for information that would explain how the grave stone ended up in DeLand. The

Orlando Sentinel ran a news story asking for any information and a check with Veteran Administration records failed to turn up any information on WWII Veteran Richard Lee.

Recently, the headstone was transported to the DeLand Naval Air Station Museum and a new computer search by museum volunteers revealed that Richard Lee, WWII Veteran, was buried in the Green Lawn Cemetery in Columbus, Ohio. Cemetery Staff confirmed that an identical

headstone was in place but they could not confirm if or when it had been replaced. DNASM members contacted The Columbus Dispatch Newspaper and on 7-27-15 a news article ran seeking information on any relatives that might be able to assist with solving the headstone mystery. DNASM will advise if any updates are received. To view the news article in the Ohio Newspaper visit <http://www.dispatch.com/content/stories/local/2015/07/27/ohio-tombstone.found-in-florida-still-raises-questions>.

Contact has been made with the VA National Cemetery Administration to coordinate the proper and respectful disposition of the headstone in DeLand.



8-1-15: Saul Saenz, News 13, visits DNASM to tape a story about the headstone to run on News 13 TV broadcasts. See Story on-line mynews13.com.



IN REMEMBRANCE



HAROLD KENNETH PARSON

Harold Parson passed away on July 9, 2015 at age 92.

Harold Parson was a True Gentleman

During World War II he served in the United States Navy and served as an instructor for young pilots learning to fly SBD-5 Dauntless Dive Bombers and other aircraft as they were prepared to serve in WWII. He also served as an FBI agent for over 22 years working in Philadelphia, PA, Washington, DC and Ft. Pierce, FL where he retired as a Senior Resident Agent.

Harold was a long time, active member of the DeLand Naval Air Station Museum, serving on the Board of Directors. He and his wife, Rabel were involved in many events and activities for the benefit of the museum. The DNAS Museum has a permanent public display of photos of Harold and Rabel and the impact of their many contributions to DNASM will be realized for generations. It was a great honor to know Harold Parson and to work with him for so many years. He stood tall in every Veteran's Day Parade, proudly wearing his original uniform. His great smile, quick wit and friendship will long be remembered.

He is survived by a wonderful family, his loving wife of 70 years, Rabel Moremen Parson, Son Charles "Chuck" F. (Evalyn) Parson of Denver, Colorado and Nels A. (Wendy) Parson of Florahome, FL, Daughter Linda P. (Michael) Davis of DeLand; grandchildren Celia, Collin, and Devon of Colorado; Joseph of DeLand and Paul of Tokyo; Caroline and William of Florahome; and great grandchildren, Mason and Eva of Colorado. Memorial gifts may be made to the music program at First Presbyterian Church, 724 N. Woodland Blvd., DeLand, FL 32720.



4-20-1945 First Baptist Church DeLand, Florida





IN REMEMBRANCE



**(Above) Bob Sanford, 1944
1st Class Radioman & Shore Patrol
at DeLand Naval Air Station**



Bob Sanford stands by a painting in the museum (above) and (right) holds a model of the DeLand Darling PV-2 Ventura as he helps prepare for the DNASM Airfleet 1998 Celebrations, including the Big Band Hangar Dance. In 1998 he helped welcome a VB-129 to AIRFLEET as it landed at the DeLand Airport for the 3 day celebration.



ROBERT E. (BOB) SANFORD, SR.: Bob Sanford, age 90, passed away July 5, 2015, in St. Petersburg, Florida. Bob served in the United States Navy during World War II. He trained at the DeLand Naval Air Station during WWII and served as a 1st Class Radioman and Shore Patrol. He was a Radioman in a Ventura submarine-hunting aircraft assigned to Squadron VB-129. The Ventura played an important roll in the Pacific and the Atlantic during WWII. Bob was also qualified to fly for emergency back-up to the pilot. He met his wife Rebecca at a local hangar dance in DeLand during WWII and they were married for 68 years. Rebecca Sanford passed away in 2012.

Bob was a long time member of the DeLand Naval Air Station Museum and was key to DNASM being organized twenty years ago. He served on the committee to save our building, start the museum and he and his wife were contributing members for many years. He worked for the City of DeLand and he and Rebecca remained active at the DeLand Naval Air Station Museum. Bob served on the DNASM Board of Directors and participated in many events to benefit the museum. He and Rebecca especially loved the Big Band Hangar Dances, remembering how they met at a local dance during WWII.

His memory will remain an important part of the history of our museum. We will display photos of him in his military uniform as part of our permanent public display. Bob's many contributions to our community and the museum will be realized for generations.

Bob is survived by his children Sharon (Jerry) Samon, Susan Lee, Bob Sanford Jr., Sarah Joan Champaign (Greg Read), as well as his 6 grandchildren, 11 great grandchildren and 7 great great grandchildren, all of whom knew him as "Bumpy". The family has requested that contributions in his memory may be mailed to the Braille and Talking Book Library, 421 Platt Street, Daytona Beach, FL 32114, or the DeLand Naval Air Station Museum at 910 Biscayne Boulevard, DeLand, Florida 32724.



WWII WASP PILOT
Kathleen Hilbrandt
Orange City, Florida

Kathleen Hilbrandt served her country in the WASPs during World War II. (Women Airforce Service Pilots)

She built up her flight time, and worked in 1943 at the Eastern Aircraft Division of General Motors as a plane captain and mechanic on Grumman TBM Avengers.

In 1944, she was 19 years old and already had her pilot's license and 85 hours of flight time. After joining the WASP, she ferried airplanes and towed targets and tested airplanes. The women's assistance freed up men for overseas duty. As a WASP, Hilbrandt was stationed at Eagle Pass Air Force Base in Texas, where she taught male cadets instrument-flight techniques "under the hood," or without being able to see the terrain.

The WASPs were keenly aware of differences in how women were treated in the service. Hilbrandt counts herself lucky to have had a commanding officer who appreciated the women and what they were doing. There were no benefits available to



A group of 200 or so WASPs traveled to Washington, D.C., in March, 2010 where they received [Congressional Gold Medals](#) in recognition of their service, 65 years later.



They provided their own room, board, transportation, medical needs, and if they were killed in the line of duty, their family paid to have them sent home. When the war ended, the jobs being held by women in most cases were given back to men. The women were not eligible for any post war benefits.

KATHLEEN HILBRANDT **WWII WASP** **(WOMEN AIRFORCE SERVICE PILOT)** **THE DeLAND NAVAL AIR STATION** **MUSEUM VOLUNTEERS HOSTED A** **VERY SPECIAL GUEST RECENTLY**



WWII Veterans Gene Storz, DNASM Restoration Crew & WWII WASP Kathleen Hilbrandt discuss their shared experiences working on WWII Grumman TBF Avenger Aircraft like the one being restored at DNASM (in background).

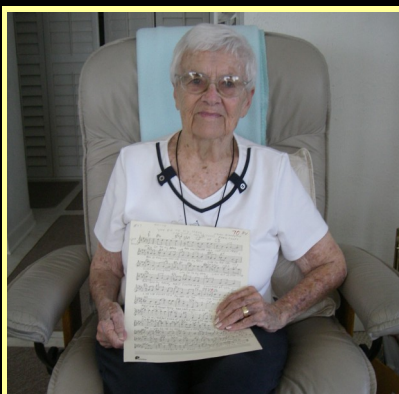


Modern tools make it a bit easier!

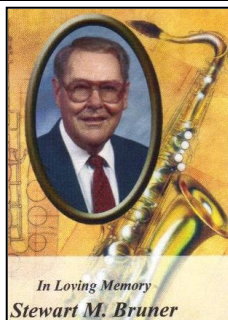
Gene tells Kathleen his great respect for the WWII WASP Pilots who he saw transport planes across the US for final preparation in WWII, often before the instrument panels were fully installed.

In some cases, they used only a compass to navigate during their delivery flights.

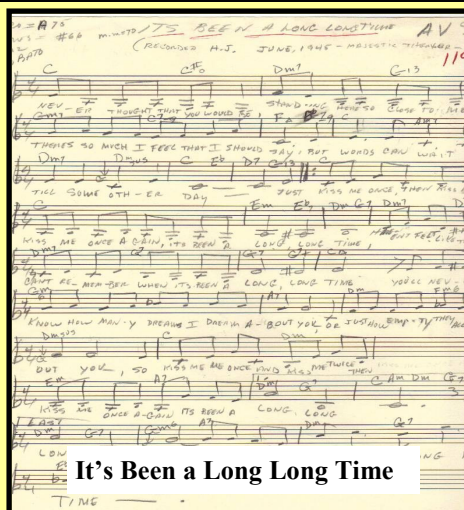
BIG BAND MUSIC MEMORABILIA DONATION



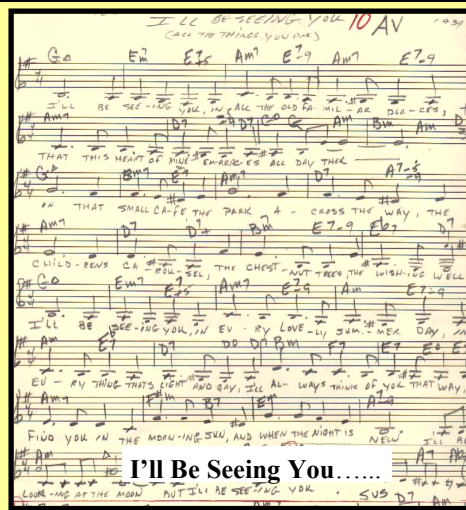
Virginia Bruner donates music memorabilia from the late Stewart Bruner. Below, she remembers her service in the U.S. Navy WAVES during WWII



After seeing a Big Band Hangar Dance Flyer, DNASM was contacted by Mrs. Virginia Bruner, wife of the late Stuart Bruner. During the Big Band Era, Stuart Bruner played with the Jan Garber Band and later with the Harry James Orchestra. He was one of the music arrangers for Harry James and also traveled with his orchestra, playing the saxophone. He performed with outstanding bands during the final years of the big band era. Later, he also held posts as band-choir director in Ohio, Kentucky and Florida. In Florida, he served as adjunct instructor, teaching clarinet and saxophone for the University of Tampa. In mid career, Mr. Bruner accepted the position of Supervisor of Instrumental Music with the Cincinnati Public Schools. His credits as a musician and music arranger are printed on many albums and he leaves a great music legacy for the Big Band Era. Museum Volunteers were delighted to meet with Virginia and learn about the rich history and amazing music career accomplished by Stuart Bruner. She donated some of his hand written sheet music arrangements prepared for the Harry James Band. We also learned that Virginia served in the United States Navy as a WAVE during WWII and she shared some of her photos and memories of that time. **THANK YOU VIRGINIA!**



It's Been a Long Long Time



I'll Be Seeing You.....

SPONSORSHIPS NEEDED:

We need raffle prizes, door prizes for upcoming fundraiser events. If you can donate gift certificates, food, drinks, wine, beer, supplies or other items that can be used to make up gift baskets, prize packages or food/drink sales, please let us know.

Underwriting Opportunities for the 24th Annual Big Band Hangar Dance include:

- ☐ Swing Band Cost—\$2,500
- ☐ Table/Chair Rental—\$1,000
- ☐ Venue Rental—\$500.00.

If you can assist us, please contact Scott Storz, Promotions Chair (386) 822-2809 for more information.

A SPECIAL THANKS TO THE CITY OF DeLAND

WE APPRECIATE THEIR ON-GOING SUPPORT OF THE DeLAND NAVAL AIR STATION MUSEUM



DNASM BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND VOLUNTEER STAFF

- Harold Bradeen, President
- Greg Makris, Vice President
- Al Schweizer, Secretary
- El Pegram, Treasurer
- Nancy Clark, Board Member
- Jack Fortes, Board Member & Publicity/Hangar Dance Committee
- Greg Gerard, Board Member & Restoration Chair
- Dr. Harry Price, Board Member & Video Chair
- Don Rowley, Board Member
- Mike Schendel, Board Member
- Nancy Schweizer, Board Member
- Gene Storz, Board Member
- Rick Yates, Board Member
- Barbara Storz—Hangar Dance Chair
- Scott Storz—Promotions Chair

A NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT



Even in the summer heat, The DeLand Naval Air Station Museum Volunteers are busy with many activities. In addition to routine museum and yard maintenance that is ongoing, the Volunteer Restoration Crews continue to work on the PT-3 Viet Nam Era Boat restoration project located next to the Museum and the TBF Avenger Restoration inside the Ronald Herman Restoration Hangar behind the museum.

Museum Volunteers worked the SCCA Races at the DeLand Airport on July 26th selling food and drinks to raise money for the museum. Other Volunteers are busy preparing for the 24th Annual Big Band Hangar Dance. Tickets are selling fast and we may have a sell-out again this year. Let us know soon if you want tickets or a reserved table.

Visitors touring the museum complex continued to log in from local and other Florida cities and other states and countries. In 2015, we have had visitors from 35 states and 7 countries including Canada, Brazil, Spain, England, Germany and Norway.

The DNASM DeLandings Newsletters are now available on our website www.delandnavalairmuseum.org under news/events tab, and an information video about the museum is posted for viewing.

"IN MEMORY OF ALL WHO SERVED"
Harold Bradeen, President

NEEDS LIST

The following list of items are needed to assist with on-going restoration projects and office administration. If you can help with a cash or in-kind donation for any of the following items please contact Scott Storz, Promotion Chair (386) 822-2809 or storzdeland@hotmail.com:

WATER:

We need on-going supplies of bottled water to keep our Veterans and Volunteers hydrated while working on restoration projects. A supply in any quantity will be greatly appreciated.

TBF Avenger Aircraft Restoration

Aluminum Sheet Metal
 Pop-rivets
 Restoration Disposables - Sandpaper, Scotch Guard, Tac-Cloths, Grinding Discs, Drill Bits
 Paint, Paint Stencils / Decals
 Cal Machine Gun Replica (2)

PT-3 Vietnam era Patrol Boat Restoration

Safety Equipment: Respirators, dust masks, gloves, goggles, face shields, first aid supplies, eye wash, band-aids, oxygen
 Calking 3M 5200 - Two Cases, oil base enamel white deck paint, rollers, brushes, paint supplies, sandpaper.
 LED lights with fixtures for below deck lighting 12-24 volt

T2V Aircraft Restoration

Paint, Paint Stencils / Decals

Tools

Battery Powered Drill/Impact Drill (2)

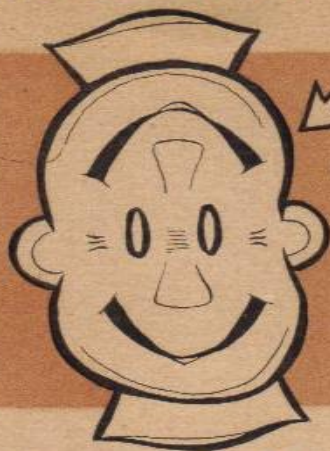
Office

Office Chairs, Locking File Cabinets, Office Supplies, Archival Supplies, Postage Stamps

Donations of usable garage sale items

Donations of vehicles, boats or sellable items for fundraising

NO MATTER HOW
 YOU LOOK AT IT



I FEEL FINE

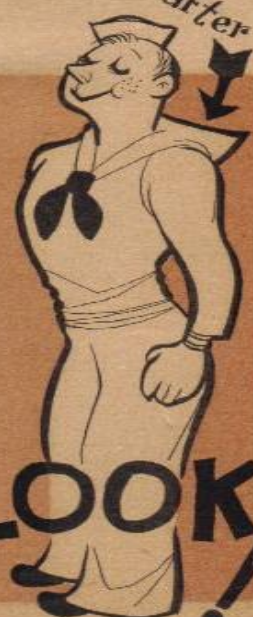
AT: U. S. NAVAL AIR STATION
 De Land, Florida

Vintage
 Postcards
 from
 DeLand
 Naval Air
 Station
 during
 WWII

before



after



LOOK!

I GOT THE NAVY BUILD-UP
 AT: U. S. NAVAL AIR STATION
 De Land, Florida

★ JOIN US FOR THE 2015 24TH BIG BAND HANGAR DANCE ★



**BUY INDIVIDUAL TICKETS OR
RESERVE TABLES FOR 8 OR 10
JOIN US AND DANCE!!
A NIGHT IN THE 1940'S**



A GREAT COMMUNITY EVENT

2014 HANGAR DANCE PHOTOS

www.delandnavalairmuseum.org For Info Call (386) 717-1492 or (386) 738-4149

FRIDAY
NOVEMBER
6TH
2015
* 7 pm *

PROCEEDS BENEFIT DNAS MUSEUM EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS



THANK YOU



SPONSORS & COMMUNITY PARTNERS

**Our All Volunteer Museum Is Supported 100% By
Public Donations and In-Kind Services**

"In Memory of All Who Served"

THANK YOU

SPONSORS & COMMUNITY PARTNERS



CITY OF DeLAND

Time Build Inc www.timebuildinc.com (Investment Opportunity-
Call For Info) Sim Check Training Inc. www.simchecktraining.com,
Turbine Connection Inc. www.turbineconnectioninc.com,



www.boulevardtire.com



BRIAN'S BBQ - briansbbq.com

DAYTONA BEVERAGES
www.daytonabud.com



DeLAND FAMILY YMCA - www.vfymca.org

DeLand Rotary Club www.delandrotary.org

DeLand Breakfast Rotary www.wildgamefeast.org



Dr. Harry Price, Diamond Productions

Custom Audio/Video Services (386) 985-4788

Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University—Riddle Redeemers Student Club

JACK FORTES & KEN & MARTY TORBETT—DNAS WWII VETERANS

Nancy & Fred Clark, JIM & BEVERLY OUTLAW

FAMILY BOOK SHOP - www.familybookshop.com



www.beacononlinenews.com

Experience Works Senior Employment Program

WEST VOLUSIA HISTORICAL SOCIETY www.delandhouse.com

THANK YOU



HAVEN HOSPICE - www.havenhospice.org

Ameris Bank - Ormond Beach Branch www.amerisbank.com,



MAINSTREET
COMMUNITY BANK OF FLORIDA

MAINSTREET BANK OF DeLAND -
www.mainstreetcbf.com

MUSE BOOK SHOP - www.themusebookshop.com

Publix www.publix.com

QUALITY QUICK PRINT - www.qualityquickprint.com

THE RONALD HERMAN FAMILY TRUST

All Quality Products - Ronald Herman www.allqualityproducts.com

SKYDIVE DeLAND - www.skydivedeland.com

STETSON FLOWER & WEDDING BOTIQUE

www.stetsonflowershop.com, Chris Stubbs Family

Stetson University Sports Program—www.stetson.edu

County of Volusia Veterans Services
www.volusia.org

Defending Freedom Warrior Weekend - cpswarriorweekend.org



www.agingtree.com

Sea Scouts, University High School &
DeLand High School Students,

Volusia County Sheriffs Office

THANK YOU MUSEUM VOLUNTEERS!!



DeLand Naval Air Station Museum, Inc.

910 Biscayne Boulevard

DeLand, FL 32724

Phone: 386-738-4149

www.delandnavalairmuseum.org

JOIN US ON FACEBOOK!!



Member

Hours of Operation: 12 Noon—4 p.m.

Wednesday through Sunday

(Open IF Volunteers Are Available)

Annex at 1050 Terminal Drive/Airport open

Wednesday 12 Noon—4pm

JOIN TODAY OR DONATE

(DONATE WITH CREDIT CARD ON WEBSITE LINK)