

DELANDINGS

DeLand Naval Air Station Museum, DeLand, Florida

June-July 2015

DNASM OSTEEN QUEST UPDATE WWII SBD-5 PLANE CRASH SITE

FROM OSTEEN BACK TO DeLAND AIRPORT



Rodney Thomas



THE WWII SBD-5 WRECKAGE PIECES FOUND IN OSTEEN WERE PLACED ON DISPLAY AT THE DeLAND NAVAL AIR STATION MUSEUM. HUNDREDS OF VISITORS CAME TO THE MUSEUM TO SEE THE WRECKAGE AND LEARN ABOUT THE HISTORY OF THE YOUNG WWII PILOTS WHO TRAINED AT DeLAND NAVAL AIR STATION, FLORIDA IN 1942-1946

When Osteen Florida resident Rodney Thomas started to find parts of a vintage aircraft on his property he set out on a mission to find out what type of plane had crashed, when it crashed and most important to him, who was the pilot. For three years he collected hundreds of pieces of the wreckage. Some pieces were small, some were a bit larger, but it was clear by the size of the crash field and the amount of debris that was being recovered, a catastrophic event had taken place. When he finally found an identification plate confirming a WWII SBD-5 aircraft the direction of the mystery started to take a turn. Rodney contacted The DeLand Naval Air Station Museum and learned that DeLand was the only Naval Air Station during WWII that trained potential pilots to fly SBD-5 Aircraft. Members of DNASM were honored to join him in

in the search. They were assisted in a grid search of the crash site by Community Partners from **The United States Naval History and Heritage Command in Washington D.C.**, the **Central Florida Metal Detecting Club**, the **K-9 Search and Rescue Team of Orange City**, the **Volusia County Sheriff's Office**, **West Volusia Historical Society** and other volunteers, including **WWII DNAS Line Chief Ken Torbett** of Palm Coast. There was great public interest and news stories developed by FOX 35 Orlando, My News 13, County of Volusia-Volusia Magazine, CNN News, The Daytona Beach News Journal and other news affiliates and publications.

Heidi Lenzini, Public Affairs Officer and George Schwarz, Ph.D. Archaeologist responded to the site from Washington D.C. They confirmed that six (6) SBD-5 Aircraft took off from

the DeLand Naval Air Base in 1943-1944 in the direction of the site. They were never heard from again and are still classified as missing. They continue to conduct an extensive investigation of DeLand WWII flight paper records which are located in various archive facilities throughout the United States. We expect them to announce a disposition on the Osteen crash site very soon.



Ken Torbett ID's Parts for Central Florida Metal Detecting Club (above)

Cadaver Search Dogs from K-9 Search & Rescue Team of Orange City

George Schwarz, Ph.D Archaeologist briefs the news media, the public and volunteer search teams for site grid search

Al Schweizer assists Naval History & Heritage Command Staff checking for any radium levels of wreckage parts

WWII SBD-5

Students view recovered wreckage and learn the WWII history of DeLand NAS



DeLAND NAVAL AIR STATION MUSEUM VOLUNTEERS ARE BUSY THIS SUMMER WITH FUNDRAISERS, EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS AND ON-GOING RESTORATION PROJECTS.

(STOP BY ON WEDNESDAYS & SATURDAYS AND WATCH THE PROGRESS)

Call For Group Tours or Student Groups



Board Member and Restoration Volunteer Mike Schendel braves the hot summer sun to prepare the Navy T2V aircraft for paint.



**6-18-15:
DNASM President Harold Bradeen accepts a grant donation from DeLand Rotary Club President Harper Hill during annual banquet. WE APPRECIATE ROTARY SUPPORT! THANK YOU!!**

TBF Avenger Restoration Project: Greg Gerard and Gene Storz, try out the new air driven rivet gun purchased with a DeLand Rotary Club donation. Thank You!



This sure saves their hands from the manual rivet gun!

**SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR
GUARDIAN ANGEL GLORIA
DENSTON!**



OLD & NEW: DNASM Volunteers held a successful garage sale inside the RONALD HERMAN RESTORATION HANGAR. Proceeds will be used to continue the TBF AVENGER RESTORATION (IN THE BACKGROUND) AND OTHER PROJECTS



PHOTOS BY JACK FORTES

CONGRATULATIONS DEFENDING FREEDOM WARRIOR WEEKEND, INC.
(www.cpswarriorweek.org)



Scott Storz, DNASM Promotions Chair represented the DeLand Naval Air Station Museum at the Defending Freedom Warrior Weekend, Inc. Annual Block Party held in Downtown DeLand. Scott served as announcer for the event and assisted with calling a very successful live auction. We appreciate the opportunity and thank Defending Freedom Warrior Weekend, Inc. for the important work they are doing for our Veterans.

PLEASE VISIT THEIR WEBSITE ABOVE AND SUPPORT THEIR EFFORTS!!



BY: DNASM WWII Veteran Jack Fortes

WING WORK: – A World War II TBF Avenger Torpedo Bomber, left, and one of its wings, right, are to be rejoined by volunteer members of the DeLand Naval Air Station Museum, lead by Restoration Chair and Retired United States Navy F-14 Pilot, DeLandite Greg Gerard, left. Other members of the restoration crew work along with and mentor Embry Riddle Student Volunteers, carefully placing new sheet metal donated by Rodney Thomas of Osteen. The plane's pilot, Lt. Bob Banta, made a "water landing" as the plane was waved off (smoke was coming from the engine) from landing on an aircraft carrier in Lake Michigan in 1943. The plane was retrieved after spending 50 years at the bottom of the lake, eventually received by the National Naval Aviation Museum at Pensacola and then assigned to the DeLand Naval Air Station Museum in 1995. The TBF aircraft and the Restoration Crews can be observed by the public from 9 AM. to Noon Wednesdays and Saturdays and during tours Wed-Sun Noon-4:PM. There is no charge. Donations Accepted.

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Hold the Phone . . . While We Hammer A Hammer Story

This is the story of a hammer. And the hammer story centers around Nick Larweth of transportation department.

Now Nick is famous for his fender repair work at the garage. But recently he needed a small hand hammer . . . cost 75c. It was ordered.

But alas and alack . . . somewhere there was a slip and when Nick was notified of the arrival of his hammer it turned out to be a pneumatic pile driver weighing 4500 pounds and capable of striking a 7000 pound blow. Seems it was salvaged from Jacksonville but freight on the shipment was \$80.

The hammer now rests back of public works but Nick did get a small hammer after all.

Sum total of the incident was the inspiration to Ed. Kelley of Public Works to write the following poem:

SAMPSON

Nick—he bought a hammer
To help us win the war
And when it came—God bless my soul
It weighed two tons or more

Nick—he straightens fenders
Needs a hammer for each one
But by the gods of ancient times
Why one that weighs two tons

Nick—he's strong and rugged
A village blacksmith's son.
But can he swing a hammer
That weighs around two tons.

Sampson was a piker
Herr Hitler's on the run
Since he heard that Nick is swinging
With a hammer weighing tons

So then when peace returns again
And wars have all been won
We'll decorate this fender man
For starting all this fun.

DeLandings News From The Past....

DeLandings Article 4/1/1945. Nick Larweth, Grandfather of DNASM Volunteer Barbara Storz, owned Nick's Body & Fender from 1920-1980. He worked at DNAS during WWII and two of his daughters married Navy Men at the DNAS Chapel in the 1940's. His picture can be seen on the Pioneer Park Wall Mural in Downtown Deland.



**Nick Larweth
1888-1987**

2-26-1946 —DeLandings was typed on a manual typewriter on display at DNASM

"Well Done" Says Capt. Laverents

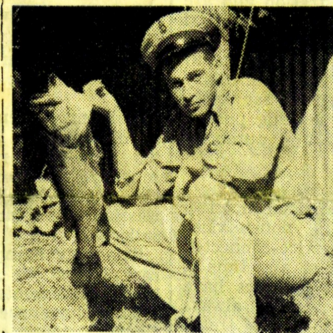
In this last issue of DELANDINGS it is fitting that we recall the excellent record and important role which this paper has enjoyed over its three years of existence.

DELANDINGS, each and every issue eagerly awaited by all of us, has meant much to the morale and spirit of the personnel of this station. The high standing and excellent record made by this station has been gloriously upheld by each and every issue of our own DELANDINGS, even in spite of necessary curtailment of personnel and materials. The distribution of DELANDINGS has been far reaching and we have all been proud of the representation it gave us.

To all the personnel who have labored so faithfully to maintain the high standard of this paper, I say "Well Done."

A. LAVERENTS.

NO FISH STORY



Chief W. H. Browning and ten-pound bass caught in the St. John's river with a Dillinger Special plug. Such vigorous competition was too much for Chief Riley, who immediately transferred Browning to NAAS Cecil Field.

2-26-1946

STRIKER



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. **THANK YOU!!**

★ **A SPECIAL THANKS TO** ★
★ **THE CITY OF DeLAND** ★

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



DELANDINGS

DNASM BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND VOLUNTEER STAFF

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The DeLand Naval Air Station Museum is a 501(c)(3), all Volunteer organization. Community support is vital to the continued success of our efforts. All donations benefit the DeLand Naval Air Station Museum's educational programs and vintage aircraft/vehicle restoration projects.

In 2015, we will celebrate the 73rd year of the opening of the DeLand Naval Air Base in 1942 during WWII and our 20th year as a museum. We will continue to serve our community and preserve our local history "In Memory of All Who Served" to protect our freedom.

We are supported by our membership, local business and public support of fundraising functions and volunteers. We rely on cash contributions and in-kind services from the Community to fund our operational expenses, restoration projects, supplies, public educational programs and displays of military memorabilia.

Please consider joining us as a member. We have opportunities as tour guides and many other volunteer tasks. **Even if you can't actively participate, your annual membership will help us keep the museum open to the public and continue our mission.**

"IN MEMORY OF ALL WHO SERVED"

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,

Caulking 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 vehicles, boats or sellable items for fundraising



THANK YOU VOLUNTEERS!!



The DeLand Naval Air Station Museum would like to thank all of our great Volunteers for the many hours they donate to making sure that our museum stays open to the public. They serve as Board Members, Project Chairs, Tour Guides, work at our fundraisers and share their many skills for restoration projects, museum promotion and administration duties.

A very special thanks to our current President, Harold Bradeen. In addition to his duties as President, Harold spends most of each week serving as a Tour Guide, a Curator and Military Historian. He shows hundreds of visitors (both adults and youth) through the museum, explaining restoration projects, vintage military memorabilia and offers history lessons through verbal and video presentations. He also works tirelessly creating or rotating displays of the thousands of vintage items that have been donated to the museum. Our museum is very small and with more items to display than available space, Harold is a master of making the best use of space! He helps to keep the museum in pristine condition and shares his vast knowledge about the history of the items on display. Along with other volunteers, he often represents DNASM at other Community Events and schools, taking museum displays and information to the public seeking new members and volunteers. Harold enlisted in the Vermont National Guard in 1952. He retired as a Master Sergeant in 1995, serving 43 years. His assignments included anti aircraft guns, Forward Observer/Motor Unit, Asst. Truck Master/Transportation, Platoon Sgt./Tank Company and in his final ten years served as Tactical Intelligence Analyst.

We Appreciate and Thank You Harold!



WANTS YOU

*To Volunteer With Our Museum Operations
With Our Many Events - and Our Projects
& WITH MANY OTHER COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES*

WE NEED VOLUNTEERS!!

MILITARY RESTORATION PROJECTS, TOUR GUIDES, MUSEUM PROGRAMS, LANDSCAPE MAINTNENACE. IF YOU CAN'T ACTIVELY PARTICIPATE, PLEASE JOIN US AS A COMMUNITY SUPPORTER. DONATIONS NEEDED.

HELP US CONTINUE OUR MISSION PRESERVING HISTORY & THE MEMORY OF ALL WHO HAVE SERVED AND ARE CONTINUING TO PROTECT OUR FREEDOM. (386) 738-4149 www.delandnavalairmuseum.org.





**DELAND NAVAL AIR STATION MUSEUM
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION/RENEWAL FORM**



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NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

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NEW MEMBER _____ RENEWAL _____

_____ SINGLE \$25 _____ FAMILY \$40 _____ STUDENT (OVER AGE 18) \$20

_____ BUSINESS/CORPORATE \$100 _____ LIFETIME \$500

****PLEASE TELL US YOUR AREA OF INTEREST AS A VOLUNTEER:** (Restoration Crew, Museum Guide, Office, Museum Maintenance, Special Events, Other)

****_____ (I can't actively participate but join as a supporting member)**

PLEASE MAIL OR DROP OFF:

**DeLAND Naval Air Station Museum
910 Biscayne Boulevard—DeLand Airport
DeLAND, FL 32724**

(386) 738-4149 www.delandnavalairmuseum.org

dnas.museum.org@gmail.com

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

"In Memory of All Who Served"



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DeLand Naval Air Station Museum

910 Biscayne Boulevard

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(DONATE WITH CREDIT CARD ON WEBSITE LINK)

www.delandnavalairmuseum.org

THANK YOU



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www.agingtree.com

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

Volusia County Sheriffs Office

THANK YOU MUSEUM VOLUNTEERS!!

HAPPY 4TH OF JULY!

