

# Preddy Memorial Foundation

## September 2001 Annual Report



### Board of Directors

Rachel Preddy Harris  
*Honorary Director*

William F. Black, President

Clyde T. Gaskins, VP

John Faircloth, Secretary

Joe Noah, Treasurer

#### From the Triad:

Carson Bain

William H. Craft

Louis P. Godwin

Horace R. Kornegay, Atty

Curtis Laughlin

Harold R. McCollum

William B. Mills, Atty.

William J. Moore

James G. Rucker

Walker F. Rucker

#### From Other Places:

Col. Bruce C. Guard (Ret)  
Buffalo Junction, VA

Marc Hamel  
Raleigh, NC

Robert Huddleston  
Chapel Hill, NC

C. M. Hunt, Jr., M.D.  
Swansboro, NC

Morton W. Lester  
Martinsville, VA

Van B. Noah, M.D.  
Raleigh, NC

Dolph Overton III  
Smithfield, NC

Robert H. Powell  
Atlanta, GA

W. Harding Shinn  
Charlotte, NC

Samuel L. Sox, Jr., CLU  
Myrtle Beach, SC

### Seventh Annual Meeting

This year the PMF held the May 8<sup>th</sup> (VE Day) meeting of members at the Peddycord Museum located at the Asheboro Municipal Airport in Asheboro, NC. The meeting was held in two parts: the Biennial Meeting of the Members was followed by the Board Meeting.

### Biennial Meeting of Members

#### NC Aviation Hall of Fame

A most knowledgeable Paul Stockman gave members a tour of the PFAC Museum. Paul is an F-84 pilot and the owner of the twin Beech aircraft housed at the Museum.

While a catered lunch was being served, Senator Russell Walker introduced Mr. Bill Williams of the NC Department of Transportation, Division of Aviation. Mr. Williams explained the planning of the 2003 centennial celebration events and gave insight into the NC Aviation Hall of Fame proposals. Although he could not say where the HoF may eventually be located, he noted that Asheboro is still in the running as the site. He also noted that it would be better if the HoF were privately operated so as to minimize interference by political interests. There will be, he explained, proceeds donated to the HoF by a national organization that conducts aircraft auctions.

Bill Kurdian of the PFAC discussed his views on the HoF. He explained why he believes that Asheboro, and in particular the PFAC site, should be chosen for the HoF. A private corporation was formed under the Hall of Fame name and it will have 15 board members. Mr. Craig Branson, owner of five of the aircraft housed at the PFAC Museum, then gave his views on the HoF, reinforcing those of Mr. Kurdian.

#### Guilford County Veterans Memorial

Bill Craft, Chairman of the Guilford County Veterans Memorial Committee, then spoke on the status of the Memorial. He encouraged all members to support the Memorial. He passed out a

brochure with a sketch and location of the planned Memorial, as well as names of the other Memorial Committee Members. He noted that PMF members Bill Black, Louis Godwin and Curtis Laughlin, as well as himself, are on the Committee. A donation of \$200 secures a memorial brick at the Memorial while a \$1,000 donation makes one a Charter Member with one's name on the plaque at the Memorial. The cost of the project is estimated at \$400,000.

#### “Air Show”

After lunch, members moved outside to watch Jeff Foley fly his WWII Stearman that he had graciously brought for all to enjoy. While Jeff was refueling, Joe Noah flew his Comanche named “Cripes A’Mighty.” Bob Reese and Marc Hamel went along with Joe while he made two high-speed (relative to the Stearman) low passes over the crowd. Jeff made several low passes for the group before departing for home. Many thanks to Jeff for such a treat. After the “air show,” the Biennial Meeting was adjourned and all were invited back inside for the Board Meeting.

### Board Meeting

President Bill Black called the meeting to order. Board Members attending were Bill Black, Bill Craft, Otto Gaskins, Louis Godwin, Bruce Guard, Marc Hamel, Bob Huddleston, Morton Lester, Harold McCollum, Bill Moore, Joe Noah, Jim Rucker, Harding Shinn and Sam Sox.

The minutes of the last meeting had been mailed out earlier to all Board Members. Minutes were approved as written and received. Marc Hamel agreed to serve as Secretary in the absence of John Faircloth.

Joe Noah gave the Treasurer's report on the financial state of the PMF. A copy of his report is attached to these Minutes. In brief, the PMF has about \$18,000 in cash or in money market accounts, and another \$14,000 in stock. There are about \$73,000 in assets with no current liabilities.

President Black then called for Special Committee reports. Otto Gaskins reported on the Preddy exhibit that PMF has at the Piedmont Triad International Airport. John Oberholtzer reported that the new exhibit is in place in the Grimsley (formerly Greensboro Senior) High

School. Bill Mills was absent and no report was on the PTI Airport renaming effort. Morton Lester reported on the Aviation Hall of Fame. He noted that the Peddycord Foundation for Aircraft Conservation is a “can-do” group that

is willing and has demonstrated that they perform. Dolph Overton was absent and no report was received on the NC Aviation Centennial progress. Senator Walker, Chairman of the First Flight Centennial Committee, briefly discussed its efforts. Harding Shinn delivered his report on the Carolinas Aviation Historical Museum located in Charlotte, NC. The Museum is now occupying its new building. The PMF donated a die-cast model of George Preddy's P-51 "Cripes A'Mighty 3<sup>d</sup>." Harding also mentioned the exhibit in the terminal building of the Douglas International Airport in Charlotte. The PMF donated a bust of George Preddy and a painting by Troy White, both of which are on display there.

President Black then called for Old Business. Otto Gaskins noted that busts of both George and Bill Preddy are now in the display at the PTI Airport. He is planning to keep the busts there until the Greensboro Historical Museum is ready to display the bust of Bill Preddy. The Museum has the original bust of George for display and is excited about having the bust of Bill as well. Jim Rucker is working towards getting the Preddy family home at 605 Park Avenue in Greensboro, NC designated on the National Register of Historic Places. The home was sold last year and the new owners have not been responsive to date. Joe Noah reported on the sales of the Bluenosed Bastards of Bodney unit history book, and the profit it is creating for the PMF. The entire loan has been repaid plus \$1500 in profits.

It was approved that the next meeting of the PMF will be November 12, 2001. That is a Monday and was selected because Veterans Day falls on a Sunday this year.

Joe Noah reported on his trip to Europe to visit the sites where Bill and George Preddy crashed. He also visited their gravesites at St. Avold, France. Joe brought back part of the instrument panel and a rudder pedal from Bill's Mustang named "Rusty." Joe donated the instrument panel part to the Greensboro Historical Museum and the rudder pedal to the PFAC Museum. Sam Sox will provide the PFAC Museum with photos to help visitors interpret the significance of the part. The parts were donated by Frantisek Hokr, Trebotovice 2463, Ceske Budejovice, 37009, Czech Republic. Jaromir Kohout took Joe to visit Mr. Hokr and Jan Smejkal, the man who pulled Bill from his plane.

Sam Sox spoke on the efforts of researchers in Europe and on locating photos of "Cripes A'Mighty 2<sup>nd</sup>."

Following up on Bill Craft's earlier briefing on the Guilford County Veterans Memorial project, Bill Black took a vote on those who favored the PMF donating \$5,000 to that Memorial. The vote passed. Bill noted that such action will ensure that the Preddy brothers are remembered with their names on the plaque.

Joe Noah and Bob Reese discussed the status of "The Last Reunion," a TV program that Bob is producing from the tape shot at the last two 352<sup>nd</sup> Fighter Group reunions. Due to the desire to get the program on PBS, it would benefit Bob's plea for donations if he can use the PMF to accept donations. The PMF board members agreed that this was fine as long as there was no liability potential for us. The PMF's tax exempt status has been confirmed by the IRS. We submitted financial data to the IRS in support of

the Advance Ruling Period, a period of six years. To retain our exempt status as a 501 (c) (3) organization, we had to show that more than half of the contributions were made by other than Board Members. Thanks to your generous donations, we met the test. And now we must continue to meet the test annually, and file a return to prove it. Thanks for your continued support.

The painting depicted on the cover of this report is available from the artist. The painting is in color, and sells for \$40 each if signed and numbered, \$30 each otherwise. Please visit the artist's web page for more information: <http://www.hangar-flying.com/prints.html>. The Spirit of Bodney is explained on the border of the painting.

Engraved on the plaque at the Virginia Air National Guard is:

"In the spirit of Major George E. Preddy, Jr., highest scoring ace in the P-51 Mustang, we honor the Maintenance Personnel who maintain our aircraft."

*Though I've belted you and flayed you, By the living Gawd that made you, You're a better man than I am Gunga Din.*

Rudyard Kipling



Graves, St. Avold, France



Parts from Bill's Mustang

