



More than Scuttlebutt...

1st Quarter FY 2009
Volume 1 Issue 1

National Museum of the Marine Corps, 18900 Jefferson Davis Highway,
Triangle, Virginia 22172 www.usmcmuseum.org

Restoring the Past

New chapters of Marine Corps history are in the making at the National Museum of the Marine Corps. While actual construction of the next three galleries, which will tell the Marine Corps story from 1775 to 1918, won't start until January 2009, the preparations started even before the Museum opened in November 2006.

During this quarter, the Museum team completed the restoration of several large artifacts slated for the new exhibitions. An L-12 Liberty engine, used to power American aircraft during World War I, now sits on a stand ready for installation. Restored by contractors under the supervision of the Museum, NMMC's Thomas-Morse aircraft was returned to Quantico in mid-October. Marine pilots trained in this nimble aircraft before going to France.

The Restoration staff was right on schedule in completing their work on a Model-T truck that will be used in the WWI gallery as part of an immersive scene. The truck is now in Leatherneck Gallery as a preview of things to come.

An earlier than expected installation date for all large artifacts seemed impossible when the staff learned of it, especially since the Liberty Truck

See Restorations, pg. 2

Oct – Dec 08 Highlights:

- * 123,194 people visited the Museum.
- * That's an average of 1,339 visitors daily.
- * Volunteers donated 4,500 hours.
- * More than 270 special events, ceremonies, and tours were hosted by the Museum.

Lovell Painting Donated to NMMC

The National Museum of the Marine Corps received a holiday gift of art that is a part of Marine Corps history.

The 1944 Tom Lovell painting "Marine in a Santa Suit" was donated by the subject's daughter, Mrs. Tonia Fike. Her father, Cpl Robert Runyan, sat for the painting after Lovell told him "You have just the ugly mug I need for this painting."

The painting was the December 1944 cover of *Leatherneck* magazine. The painting stood in Leatherneck Gallery throughout the holiday season and is now a permanent part of the Museum's art collection.



Director's Log

Lin Ezell

The Museum ended the year on a high note. Working with the Regional Contracting Office, we awarded \$10 million worth of contracts for the fabrication of our next three galleries. These exhibitions will take the place of the Global War on Terrorism exhibit and the art gallery we all enjoyed so much. In fact, the construction barrier is already in place. GWOT photos now reside in Leatherneck Gallery, along with the Pioneer UAV. Other imagery and artifacts from today's fight will be added in the coming weeks. But, for awhile, we will be a "work in progress."

In 2008, we logged in 507,652 visitors, including Virginia Governor Tim Kaine and Senator John Warner among others. We can now say with some certainty that we can expect over a half-million guests annually. With the economic downturn of the last several months, we promoted NMMC as a free attraction that delivers a high return on the time invested in coming here.

One comment we often receive from post-Vietnam vets is that NMMC does not cover "my war." We tell them that our second phase will allow us to carry the history of the Marine Corps forward. Certainly, the Marine Corps Heritage Foundation is aggressively raising funds for the next 80,000 square feet. But until then, we will use temporary exhibitions to tell some of those stories that just shouldn't wait. One of those is Beirut. In October, to mark the 25th anniversary of the bombing that claimed the lives of 238 Marines, we opened an exhibition titled "Where do we get such men?" It is a sobering reminder that our fight against terror didn't start on 9/11.

The Museum has much to be thankful for as we look ahead to 2009. The Foundation continues to generously supplement our funding for programs, like the teacher-in-residence. With more than 200 docents on board, we are able to deliver outstanding customer service. We do so appreciate the thousands of hours they volunteer—with smiles on their faces! And the staff and our Marines are charging ahead to accomplish the many tasks outlined in our strategic plan. It will be a very good year indeed.

Restoration, continued from pg 1

The National Museum of the Marine Corps is often looked to as an expert source by other military museums. The National Armor and Cavalry Foundation visited the Museum in October as part of their design research for a new Armor and Cavalry Museum at Ft. Benning, GA

was still in pieces. Parts were still being removed from the carcass of another Liberty, and components for the primary truck were still being cleaned, primed, and painted when the new deadline became known. However, with just one call for volunteers, the restoration on the truck is now ahead of schedule and will be ready for installation by late February. Museum staff, docents, and Marine Corps University Marines are donating their time to ensure the mission is accomplished.

Two aircraft, three vehicles, and five guns will be ready for installation in the new galleries, scheduled to open in April 2010.



This Model T truck, decked out here for the holidays and filled with Toys for Tots, is on temporary display in Leatherneck Gallery.

NMMC Conquers Pentagon's Corridor 7

The Exhibits team at the National Museum of the Marine Corps was given a mission by the Commandant to renovate the Marine Corps corridor at the Pentagon. In true “gung-ho” fashion, the team went above and beyond expectations.

Portraits and biographies of all the commandants are now uniformly aligned along one wall of Corridor 7. On the opposite wall, below famous Marine Corps quotes like those in Leatherneck Gallery, Marine Corps history is portrayed through large photo murals. At the end of the hall, life-size cast figures of a Continental and a modern-day Marine stand guard over the eagle, globe, and anchor.

The corridor has become the talk of the Pentagon and the standard to meet as other services renovate their exhibits.

“Thousands of people walk through the Pentagon each year and we are proud to claim the best looking corridor in the building now. Thanks to your superb work, visitors and employees alike will have the opportunity to admire the illustrious history of ‘the few, the proud, the Marines,’ wrote Gen James T. Conway, commandant of the Marine Corps, in a letter of appreciation to members of the design team. That letter was accompanied by the Commandant’s challenge coin.



History often meets itself at NMMC, as when Col Julia E. Hamblet, Ret, visited the Museum in November and posed beside this picture of her taken 55 years earlier. Hamblet served six years as the second Director of Women Marines.

Educating the Future

The NMMC Education Branch has been teaching future generations about the past. More than 4,000 students visited the Museum and participated in educational activities this quarter.

The Teacher in Residence program officially kicked off with the dedication of the classroom on 28 October. Aaron Book, on loan to the Museum from Prince William County Schools, has already developed gallery guides to assist teachers in covering WWII, Korea, and Vietnam. He has also created two special worksheets for young visitors for the inauguration and President’s Day.

The Museum also engaged 25 Prince William County educators in a Teachers in-Service Workshop on teaching WWI, for which they earned recertification credits.

Young visitors participated in three family days during the quarter. They also continued to contribute artwork through the Children’s Corner, some of which now hangs at Bethesda Naval Hospital.

NMMC Collections Growing

Since October curators and collections managers have been processing 26 new collections containing 298 artifacts.

Some of the highlights of those acquisitions include an SPH-3B flight helmet used in Beirut, a Mosin Nagant Rifle captured in Korea, a 1029-1930 USMC recruiting banner, and two collections of Combat Art by CWO2 Michael Fay and Sgt Kristopher Battles.

Several loans have also been safely returned to the Museum. One of the most notable is a collection of Revolutionary War material that had been on loan to Independence Park's New Hall Military Museum in Philadelphia since 1965. The artifacts will be installed in a new gallery at the NMMC this year.

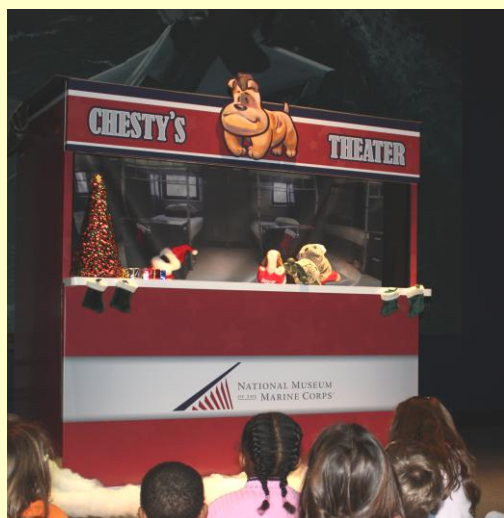
Christmas at NMMC

Festive trees, twinkling lights, puppets, holiday music, and even Santa and his elves are not what generally comes to mind when thinking of the National Museum of the Marine Corps, but that's exactly what visitors found during the holiday season.

Museum staff, Marines, and volunteers came together at the beginning of December to deck the halls, preparing to welcome all to what Museum director Lin Ezell said is sure to become a "holiday destination."

Three of the Museum's trees were decorated by other organizations: The Women Marines Association, The Montford Point Marine Association, and Beirut Veterans of America.

Local bands and choral groups entertained visitors in Leatherneck Gallery throughout the month, and young weekend visitors created their own ornaments.



Educators delighted young visitors with a puppet show in the new "Chesty's Theater."



Visitors and staff shared their secrets with Santa, who tends bar in Tun Tavern in the off-season.



Comments and ideas prompted by "More than Scuttlebutt..." should be directed to Gwenn Adams at gwenn.adams@usmc.mil or 703-784-6134.