

**CITY OF BOULDER
PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD AGENDA ITEM**

MEETING DATE: April 28, 2014

AGENDA TITLE:

Request to Rename the Park Informally Named Mesa Memorial Park to Bill Bower Park

PRESENTERS:

Jeff Dillon, Director, Parks and Recreation

Jeff Haley, Planning Manager

Sarah DeSouza, Senior Manager for Community Outreach

Tina Briggs, Landscape Designer

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

In December 2010, the City of Boulder adopted a Policy on Commemorative Naming of City Facilities (Attachment A). The purpose of the policy is to allow, in appropriate circumstances, the naming or renaming of facilities, owned and operated by the City, in commemoration of persons that have made unusually significant contributions to the City.

The planning process for the park informally known as Mesa Memorial Park (MMP) began in 2008 and was initially scheduled for development in 2009 when funding was reallocated to other higher priority projects due to the economic downturn. In 2012, funding was identified once again for the development of MMP and the planning and development process was initiated with the neighborhood.

Throughout 2013, department staff worked with the neighborhood community in planning and developing the park. One of the key initiatives during this period was the naming of the park. After extensive discussion and feedback, the community has requested the park be named Bill Bower Park (Attachment B). The following quote from one of the park neighbors captures the essence of the majority of feedback about this recommendation:

“It was a privilege to get to know (Colonel) Bill (Bower) before he died and to see a true hero in action every day he lived. His inspiration will live on in my heart and in the hearts of so many who knew him. Naming the park after Bill is a fantastic idea and is especially fitting because of his dedication to children. He would have been happy to have a place to sit, visit with others, hear the kids play and watch the contrails cross the sky.”

The department requests that the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board (PRAB) make a recommendation to either approve or disapprove the naming proposal. This recommendation will be considered by the City Manager.

ANALYSIS:

According to historical and community records (Attachments C-E), the following is a brief history of Colonel Bill Bower's service to the United States of America and the civic role he played in the city of Boulder upon his retirement.

Service to His Country:

- Born William Marsh "Bill" Bower (Bower) on February 13, 1917 in Ravenna, Ohio.
- Bower was an American aviator, U.S. Air Force Colonel, and veteran of World War II.
- He graduated from Ravenna High School in 1934 and attended Kent State University and joined the Ohio National Guard 107th Cavalry in 1936.
- Bower graduated from the U.S. Army Air Corps Flying School in 1940 and was commissioned a 2nd Lieutenant in the U.S. Air Force on October 4, 1940.
- He joined the 37th Bomb Squadron, based at Lowry Field in Denver, Colorado.
- He transferred to the 17th Bombardment Group headquartered at McChord Field in Washington State in June 1941.
- In the months following the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, Bower volunteered for a then unknown, but dangerous, mission, which was to be the first American aerial attack on Japan.
- The air raid, which also came to be called the Doolittle Raid, after Lieutenant Colonel James Doolittle, took place on April 18, 1942, four months after the Pearl Harbor attack.
- By demonstrating that Japan was vulnerable to American attack, the Doolittle Raid provided an American morale boost and opportunity for U.S. retaliation after the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941.
- This was the only time that U.S. Army Air Forces bombers were launched from a U.S. Navy aircraft carrier on a combat mission during the war.
- The plan called for the bombers to attack military targets in Japan and to continue westward to land in China since landing a medium bomber on the Hornet was impossible.
- None of the B-25 pilots, including Doolittle, had ever taken off from a carrier prior to this mission.
- Bower piloted the "Fickle Finger of Fate", one of the sixteen B-25B Mitchell medium bombers that took off from the USS Hornet deep in the Western Pacific Ocean to attack cities in Japan.
- Bower and his five member crew bombed the Ogura refinery, two factories and a large warehouse along the docks at Yokohama during the raid. They were forced to abandon their first target, the Naval Shipyard, due to the presence of barrage

balloons. On their flight to reach China, they flew over a Japanese weather boat that they strafed and sank before flying on to bail out over China.

- Bower and his crew parachuted out of their B-25 over China during the night, which was Bower's first and last, parachute jump.
- Bower landed on a hillside in China perilously close to the edge of a cliff. One of his crew members broke his foot during the parachute landing.
- Once reunited, Bower's and his crew were assisted by Chinese villagers on their four day trek to Chushien, China.
- According to Bower's own accounts, his journey back to the United States took him through Tibet, India, Arabia, Nigeria, and Brazil.
- Fifteen of the aircraft made it to China and the other made it to the Soviet Union.
- Thirteen entire crews, and all but one crewman of a 14th, returned either to the United States or to American Forces.
- Eleven members of the Doolittle Raid were killed or captured (two were killed crashing, one died after bailing out of an aircraft, five ended up in Russia where they were detained for years and eight men became prisoners of war in Japan – three of these men were assassinated).
- An estimated 250,000 Chinese civilians were killed by the Japanese during their search for Doolittle's men (germ warfare and other atrocities were used against the Chinese).
- While the raid caused negligible material damage to Japan, only hitting non-military targets, it succeeded in its goal of helping American morale and casting doubt in Japan on the ability of the Japanese military leaders.
- It also caused Japan to withdraw its powerful aircraft carrier force from the Indian Ocean to defend their Home Islands.
- The raid also contributed to Admiral Yamamoto's decision to attack Midway – an attack that turned into a decisive rout of the Imperial Japanese Navy by the U.S. Navy near Midway Island in the Central Pacific.
- In June 1942, Bower and twenty-two other members of the Doolittle Raid received the Distinguished Flying Cross during a reception at the White House.
- The city of Ravenna, Ohio declared July 3, 1942 as Bill Bower Day.
- Bower remained in the U.S. Army Air Forces throughout World War II achieving the rank of Colonel.
- He commanded the 48th Bombardment Squadron during the war and served in Africa, including the allied invasion of North Africa, and the European Theater, including Italy, until 1945.
- Bower served as a commander of a U.S. Air Force transport organization in the Arctic and commanded Dobbins Air Force Base in Marietta, Georgia.
- He was awarded the Bronze Star Medal and two Air Medals during his career.
- Bower retired from the U.S. Air Force in 1966.

Service to His Community

- Bower moved to Boulder, Colorado in 1966 with his wife, Lorraine Amman, and

their four children.

- He hand-built the family home on Dennison Circle.
- He lived in Boulder until his death on January 10, 2011 at the age of 93.
- After retirement, Bower gave back to his community serving on non-profit boards and city committees, delivering meals to the home-bound, gleaning corn for Community Food Share, starting Optimist Clubs, and founding local chapters for various organizations.
- As the retired “father” on Dennison Circle, Bower kept track of which working fathers traveled for work and on snowy days, ensured their driveways were always shoveled first.
- Bower organized lawn golf tournaments for the neighborhood boys, crafting trophies for the winners and instructed them on rocket building in his garage.
- According to one neighbor, “Bill was the warm, generous, caring epicenter of our community. My daughter says she felt like she got to grow up with an extra Grandpa right across the street.
- At the time of his death, Bower was the last remaining Doolittle Raider pilot.
- The Colonel William Marsh Bower Center opened in the Portage County Regional Airport in Shalersville Township, north of Ravenna, in June 2013

PUBLIC FEEDBACK:

The Mesa Memorial community was provided notification of the proposed naming of the park and was given a two week feedback period during which time no comments opposed the proposal.

PRAB ACTION:

The department requests that the PRAB make a recommendation to either approve or disapprove the naming proposal. This recommendation will be considered by the City’s Naming Committee and, subsequently, the City Manager. If the City Manager recommends the park name, this item will then go forward to City Council as a consent item requesting their support of the City Manager’s recommendation.

ATTACHMENTS:

- A. Policy on Commemorative Naming of City Facilities
- B. Mesa Memorial Park Renaming Application: Bill Bower Park
- C. The Boardman Camera – August 30, 2008
- D. We Get By With A Little Help From Our Friends Article – Diane Bergstrom
- E. Letter of Support – Joseph Boardman

CITY OF BOULDER

POLICIES, PROCEDURES AND GUIDELINES

Policy on Commemorative Naming of City Facilities

EFFECTIVE DATE:

December 1, 2010



Jane S. Brautigam, City Manager

I. POLICY

It is the policy of the City of Boulder (“City”) to allow, in appropriate circumstances, the naming or renaming of facilities, owned and operated by the City, in commemoration of persons that have made unusually significant contributions to the City. This allowance extends to facilities that are owned by the City but leased to, and used by, another entity.

II. PURPOSE

City facilities are built and maintained at public expense and for the purpose of carrying out city business. The naming of such facilities can have long lasting implications and raise political, legal and equity concerns both within the City organization and with the public at large. The purpose of this policy is to attempt to anticipate these concerns and to provide a uniform, transparent and citywide process for addressing them.

III. SCOPE

A. **Policy Limited to Naming in Response to Commemoration of Persons** - The scope of this policy does not extend to other practices of naming city facilities, including:

- 1) Naming of facilities in response to sponsorship (addressed in *Policy on Sponsorship Naming of City Facilities*).
- 2) Naming for purposes of public identification (i.e., “North Boulder Park” and “East Boulder Recreation Center”), or
- 3) Naming after landmarks, including naming after local resources, geographic feature, or identifiable community characteristics.
- 4) Naming after past or present owners of the property, property donors, or after the name historically used for identification of the property.

B. **Applicability of Existing Department Policies** - Some City departments, including the Parks and Recreation and Community Planning and Sustainability, have policies and procedures already in place that guide the consideration of naming of City facilities within their purview. To the extent that such policies incorporate requirements that are at least as strict as this policy, including specific adherence to all five procedural steps outlined in Section VI of this policy, such department-specific policies shall continue to take precedence over this policy and be the sole documents to be adhered to with regard to naming.

III. DEFINITIONS

The following terms are used in this policy:

Commemorative: The term “commemorative” or “commemoration,” as used herein, refers to the practice of naming a facility to honor persons who have over an extended period of time: demonstrated excellence, courage or exceptional service to the citizens of the City, the State of Colorado or the nation; provided extensive community service; worked to foster equality and reduce discrimination; made a significant financial donation or in-kind contribution to a City facility with such contribution significantly benefiting the community that the facility serves (i.e. the facility may not have otherwise been possible without the financial assistance), or who have; historical significance to the community, the City of Boulder, the State of Colorado or the nation.

Donation: The term “donation” describes financial or in-kind contributions that are made without restrictions on how the money or resources are to be used and without expectation of reciprocal benefit by the donee. When a contribution is made with a clear expectation that an obligation is created or that the recipient will provide something of value in return, the contribution is considered a “sponsorship,” not a donation.

Facility: The term “facility, as used herein, means any City-owned land and buildings, and any features affixed to the land including components of the property such as rooms, parks, fields, trails, shelters and other components of the facility. The term “facility,” however, does not extend to city streets, alleys or amenities such as trees, benches and fountains.

Person – The term “person,” as used herein, refers to any living or deceased human being. It does not extend to the name of any organization, including but not limited to, a business, sole proprietorship, partnership, or corporation.

IV. CITY RETENTION OF RIGHT TO RENAME

The City retains the right to rename facilities at any time.

V. LIMITATIONS

A city facility cannot be named or renamed:

A. After an elected or appointed City official, or family member thereof, that is currently serving, at the time of application or consideration of such application.

Commemorative naming immediately after termination of a city official's terms of service, while not prohibited, is discouraged.

B. After a currently employed City staff member or volunteer, that is currently employed or volunteering, at the time of application or consideration of such application. Commemorative naming immediately after termination of a city staff member's employment, or volunteer's tenure, while not prohibited, is discouraged. Furthermore, commemorative naming for former City staff members is not appropriate when based only on tenure or performance of normal job duties.

C. After a person which has a quasi-judicial matter pending, or expected to be pending, before the City at the time of application or consideration of such application.

VI. PROCEDURES

- Step 1 Consideration for naming or renaming of a City facility begins with the completion of a Commemorative Naming Application
- Step 2 The proponent of the naming/renaming will be required to solicit and summarize feedback from impacted stakeholders in order to capture controversies associated with the proposal. Depending on the nature of the facility and whether the proposed name would replace a previous commemorative name, this process could include extensive outreach to nearby property owners or constituency groups associated with the facility.
- Step 3 The Commemorative Naming Application, along with a summary of public comment, must then be submitted to the City Manager's Office for consideration.
- Step 4 The application will first be reviewed by the **city's naming committee**; a standing committee created by this policy composed of representatives from the City Manager's and City Attorney's Office, along with a representative of the facility to be named. The focus of the committee's work can include developing a recommendation for the City Manager's consideration and documenting that recommendation.
- Step 5 After reviewing all information provided, the City Manager will make a determination on whether to approve or disapprove the naming proposal. The city manager will then submit his or her decision, along with all supporting documentation, to the city council in a Weekly Information Packet (WIP) as a call-up item that allows council the ability to reconsider the city manager's decision. Until council has had that opportunity, a decision on the naming or renaming shall not be considered final.

VII. CONSTRUCTION AND INTERPRETATION

Employees who have questions concerning the interpretation or application of this policy are directed to contact the City Manager or his/her designee.

VIII. EXCEPTIONS/CHANGE

These guidelines may be reviewed and changed at any time.

IX. CITY MANAGER DESIGNEE

December 1, 2010 - Carl Castillo, Policy Advisor

Commemorative Naming Application

After reviewing the city's "Policy on Commemorative Naming of City Facilities" please answer the following questions:

1. **Facility Subject to Request** - What is the current name, if any, and location of the city facility you are seeking to name
 The currently un-named park is located on Table Mesa Drive between Hartford Drive and Yale Road. The current unofficial name used in working documents is Mesa Memorial Park, based upon the church previously owning the land.

2. **Proposed Name Change** - What is the commemorative name proposed for the facility?
 The Commemorative name proposed for the park is Bill Bower Park.

3. **Applicant** - What is the name of the individual(s) submitting this application and what department and/or organization, if any, are they associated with?
 Tina Briggs of the City of Boulder Parks and Recreation Department is submitting the application on behalf of the neighbors and neighborhood association in favor of Bill Bower Park.

4. **Relationship to Proposed Name Change** - What relationship, if any, does the applicant have with the individual whose name is proposed to be commemorated? (e.g., family member, employee, supervisor, business partner, etc.)
 The applicant, Tina Briggs, has no relationship with the individual proposed to be commemorated. As part of the development of a new park, staff requested suggestions for a park name from the community. Bill Bower Park was suggested and supported by the community and his family.

5. **Stakeholder Support/Opposition** – In accordance with Step 2 of the city's policy, summarize all feedback that the applicant has received from stakeholders who have an interest in the city facility. If appropriate, this could include feedback and documentation received, pro or con, after sharing the proposal with nearby property owners and/or constituency groups associated with the facility. Note that depending on the merits of the application, any anticipated controversy associated with the proposed naming, and the level of unbiased community feedback solicited by the applicant, the city may choose to subsequently conduct its own public outreach.
 The city requested suggestions for the park name and subsequently conducted the public outreach.
 - On April 23, 2013 park naming ideas were requested for the new park at the public meeting. The public meeting was notified through a .25 mile radius postcard mailing, posted in News from City Hall, sent out in an e-mail blast, posters in the park and it was posted on the park web page. Community members who had previously attended Mesa

Memorial Park meetings and signed up on the e-mail list also received notification and reminders. Seven viable options were presented to parks and recreation in the 2 week comment period, Bill Bower Park included. 13 of the 23 responses were for Bill Bower Park.

- The park naming process was put on hold.
- The naming process was revived again in August of 2013. The suggestion period was re-opened for park name suggestions from August 9 until August 19, 2013. The web page was updated and the community and neighborhood association were notified via e-mail.
- On Aug 19, all suggestions from April and August were posted on the park web page and sent to the neighborhood e-mail list and circulated by the neighborhood association. Suggested names were open for neighborhood input through Sept 16, 2013. The process was put on hold at this point due to the flood emergency. Two of the three comments were in favor of Bill Bower Park.
- Staff prepared a proposed park name recommendation based on the feedback provided by the community and historical data about Bill Bower. The community supported the name of Bill Bower Park. The draft recommendation was posted on March 25 and opened for public review and comment about the park name until April 14, 2014. Three of the four comments received were in favor of the recommendation for Bill Bower Park.
- Throughout the process there have been no objections to Bill Bower Park. There are community members who have expressed a preference towards other names although have not expressed a strong objection to Bill Bower Park

6. **Supporting Documentation** - Please provide biographical information about the individual who is proposed to be commemorated as well as any public records suggesting that that individual is deserving of such public commemoration. This information should clearly connect with the City's definition of commemorative naming, particularly the City's policy of only allowing commemorative naming of facilities to honor persons who have over an extended period of time:

- Demonstrated excellence, courage or exceptional service to the citizens of the nation; and
- Provided extensive community service; and
- Been of historical significance to the nation.

According to historical and community records (Attachments C-E), the following is a brief history of Colonel Bill Bower's service to the United States of America and the civic role he played in the city of Boulder upon his retirement.

Service to His Country:

- Bower was an American aviator, U.S. Air Force Colonel, and veteran of

World War II.

- Bower graduated from the U.S. Army Air Corps Flying School in 1940 and was commissioned a 2nd Lieutenant in the U.S. Air Force on October 4, 1940.
- In the months following the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, Bower volunteered for a then unknown, but dangerous, mission, which was to be the first American aerial attack on Japan.
- The air raid, which also came to be called the Doolittle Raid, after Lieutenant Colonel James Doolittle, took place on April 18, 1942, four months after the Pearl Harbor attack.
- By demonstrating that Japan was vulnerable to American attack, the Doolittle Raid provided an American morale boost and opportunity for U.S. retaliation after the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941.
- This was the only time that U.S. Army Air Forces bombers were launched from a U.S. Navy aircraft carrier on a combat mission during the war.
- The plan called for the bombers to attack military targets in Japan and to continue westward to land in China since landing a medium bomber on the Hornet was impossible.
- None of the B-25 pilots, including Doolittle, had ever taken off from a carrier prior to this mission.
- Bower piloted the “Fickle Finger of Fate”, one of the sixteen B-25B Mitchell medium bombers that took off from the USS Hornet deep in the Western Pacific Ocean to attack cities in Japan.
- Bower and his five member crew bombed the Ogura refinery, two factories and a large warehouse along the docks at Yokohama during the raid. They were forced to abandon their first target, the Naval Shipyard, due to the presence of barrage balloons. On their flight to reach China, they flew over a Japanese weather boat that they strafed and sank before flying on to bail out over China.
- Bower and his crew parachuted out of their B-25 over China during the night, which was Bower’s first and last, parachute jump.
- Bower landed on a hillside in China perilously close to the edge of a cliff. One of his crew members broke his foot during the parachute landing.
- Once reunited, Bower’s and his crew were assisted by Chinese villagers on their four day trek to Chushien, China.
- According to Bower’s own accounts, his journey back to the United States took him through Tibet, India, Arabia, Nigeria, and Brazil.
- Fifteen of the aircraft made it to China and the other made it to the Soviet Union.
- Thirteen entire crews, and all but one crewman of a 14th, returned either to the United States or to American Forces.
- Eleven members of the Doolittle Raid were killed or captured (two were killed crashing, one died after bailing out of an aircraft, five ended up in Russia where they were detained for years and eight men became prisoners of war in Japan – three of these men were assassinated).

- While the raid caused negligible material damage to Japan, only hitting non-military targets, it succeeded in its goal of helping American morale and casting doubt in Japan on the ability of the Japanese military leaders.
- It also caused Japan to withdraw its powerful aircraft carrier force from the Indian Ocean to defend their Home Islands.
- In June 1942, Bower and twenty-two other members of the Doolittle Raid received the Distinguished Flying Cross during a reception at the White House.
- The city of Ravenna, Ohio declared July 3, 1942 as Bill Bower Day.
- Bower remained in the U.S. Army Air Forces throughout World War II achieving the rank of Colonel.
- He commanded the 48th Bombardment Squadron during the war and served in Africa, including the allied invasion of North Africa, and the European Theater, including Italy, until 1945.
- Bower served as a commander of a U.S. Air Force transport organization in the Arctic and commanded Dobbins Air Force Base in Marietta, Georgia.
- He was awarded the Bronze Star Medal and two Air Medals during his career.
- Bower retired from the U.S. Air Force in 1966.

Service to His Community

- He hand-built the family home on Dennison Circle.
- He lived in Boulder until his death on January 10, 2011 at the age of 93.
- After retirement, Bower gave back to his community serving on non-profit boards and city committees, delivering meals to the home-bound, gleaning corn for Community Food Share, starting Optimist Clubs, and founding local chapters for various organizations.
- As the retired “father” on Dennison Circle, Bower kept track of which working fathers traveled for work and on snowy days, ensured their driveways were always shoveled first.
- Bower organized lawn golf tournaments for the neighborhood boys, crafting trophies for the winners and instructed them on rocket building in his garage.
- According to one neighbor, “Bill was the warm, generous, caring epicenter of our community. My daughter says she felt like she got to grow up with an extra Grandpa right across the street.
- At the time of his death, Bower was the last remaining Doolittle Raider pilot.
- The Colonel William Marsh Bower Center opened in the Portage County Regional Airport in Shalersville Township, north of Ravenna, in June 2013

The Boardman Camera

Saturday, August 30, 2008, Vol. 2, No. 64

Labor Day

Did you know that Colorado was one of the first five states to make Labor Day a state holiday?

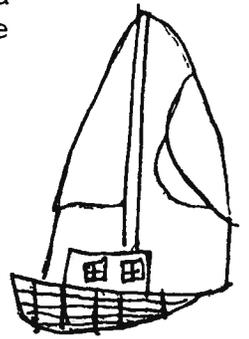
The very first Labor Day was in 1882, in New York City. It was the idea of people in a labor organization called the Knights of Labor. They wanted to honor the average worker.

About 10,000 workers gathered to be in the parade. They had a picnic, concerts, and speeches after the parade.

In 1887, five states made it a state holiday: Oregon, Colorado, Massachusetts, New Jersey, and New York. Then, in 1894, it became a national holiday.

Now there are often parades and speeches, but the main thing Labor Day is to most people is a way to mark the end of Summer. They often do a final outside pool day, hike, go boating, go camping, and have cookouts.

Whatever you choose to do, I hope you have fun!



The Boardwalk: The DNC

On Thursday, we went to the Democratic National Convention. Next week, I'll do a story about it; this is the story of our way in.

We drove down to a gas station near INVESCO, and Mommy and I got out. We only had two credentials, and Daddy put them in our names. ("Credential" was the word they used for "ticket.")

We went across the street and found the end of our gigantic line. As we made our way down it, people were selling buttons, t-shirts, rally towels, hats,

and miniature Obama dolls. The prices were all different. Some people sold buttons for \$5 each, some sold them for \$4 each, and some sold them for \$3 each. T-shirts ranged from \$5 to \$20.

It was hot and sunny while we were in line. The people in line were happy and anxious to get in; they were in good spirits and chatty. Most of the people around us were from Denver, but we met a woman from Knoxville, Tennessee, and a group of people from Kansas City, Missouri. *Cont. p. 2*



The Boardwalk, cont.

When we got through one checkpoint, we went on a fast part to security. The fast part was where it had been really blocked up with people earlier, and the line zigzagged back and forth across a huge parking lot. Now the line was really moving; we didn't have to stop and wait there at all. Besides its being faster, there were people giving out free bottles of cold water, which was really appreciated. Everyone seemed really happy.

Finally, we got to security. They didn't check much! We walked through a metal detector, like at the airport, and TSA people looked through Mommy's pocketbook, but that was all we had to do.

It felt good to finally be in!

Once we were inside, though, we had another long, fast walk to our section, which was up high. We were in section 511. Finally, we found two seats. It was about two hours since we had gotten in line.

Next week, we'll tell you all about actually seeing Obama and the other speakers. It was fun!

**The Doolittle Raiders**

The Doolittle Raiders were a group of 80 men who bombed Tokyo during WWII four months after the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor. They were led by then Lt. Col. Jimmy Doolittle.

It was a surprise attack and a hazardous mission. The men all volunteered, but they did not know what they were going to do or even where they were going to bomb. They made up the crews for sixteen B-25s.

When they went to train, they found out they were going to have to take off in 400 feet, which is a very short takeoff for a B-25. They wondered why they would have to take off in such a short distance; they never guessed they would be taking off from an aircraft carrier, the *USS Hornet*, to bomb Tokyo. Doolittle was the only one who knew the details of the mission.

When they got on the *USS Hornet*, hundreds of miles away from the coast, the Navy men aboard the ship and the Doolittle Raiders finally found out what they were going to do.

They were planning to get close to the coast of Japan before releasing the bombers on a surprise nighttime attack. But a Japanese fishing boat saw



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The Boardman Camera

August 30, 2008

The Doolittle Raiders, cont.

the aircraft carrier coming close to Japan. They decided to launch immediately so the fishing boat couldn't warn Japan about the attack.

The B-25s on the mission were made special to carry extra fuel, but they were a whole day and 400 miles away from their planned launch site. There were whitecaps on the ocean, and it was raining on and off on the deck of the carrier. But still they had to take off.

So they did, at intervals. Once in the air, each plane was on its own. After takeoff, each plane would fly around the carrier one time, and someone from the Navy would hold up a cardboard sign with the air-speed and the compass heading of the carrier.

Then they were off on their individual missions to bomb different sites. They were successful and dropped their bombs on military and other targets. Then they headed to China, where they were supposed to land in this one town and meet up. Since they were far from Japan at takeoff, they had to use extra fuel to get to Japan. They

didn't have enough fuel left to get to their destination in China.

They stayed with their planes until they ran out of fuel. Some of the crews got themselves high enough that they could bail out, parachuting to the ground. Some were down low when their plane ran out of fuel, and they crashed.

Before the mission, they estimated that only one-half would survive. Actually, 77 survived the mission. Only 2 were killed crashing; one died after bailing out. One crew ended up in Russia where they were detained for years, and 8 men ended up prisoners of the Japanese (some of these were later killed).

It wasn't a gigantic battle they did, but it raised Americans' spirits, and all the Allied Forces felt good because Japan suffered a surprise attack, like Japan had done to the U.S.

The Doolittle Raiders were instant heroes. There are still eleven of them alive today, and one lives in Boulder. See the "Spotlight" this week on Bill Bower.

**Hot Sulphur Springs**

Last week, we promised to tell you of our trip to Hot Sulphur Springs. Again, we ran out of space/time. We promise it will be in next week's paper!!!

Spotlight: Bill Bower, Doolittle Raider Pilot

Colonel Bill Bower was the pilot for plane 12 on Jimmy Doolittle's Tokyo raid. He now lives on Dennison Circle.

As the pilot, he got to choose which targets he would bomb. He picked the Naval Shipyards just outside of Tokyo. No one else wanted that target because they thought there would be a lot of guns shooting at them.

"I wasn't happy about killing people, so I said, 'That's OK, I'll take that target,'" said Bower.

When he got there, there weren't many guns. But that is getting ahead of ourselves, so let's backtrack a little.

All the Doolittle Raiders were volunteers, and Bowers said he went because he knew Doolittle.

"He was standing right in front of me when he said, 'I need volunteers for an aviation mission.' So I said, 'Sure, I'll go.' I knew the man, and that he was a good man."

Bower and his other air friends didn't know where they would be going or what they'd be doing. But Doolittle told them not to talk about it amongst themselves, so they didn't.

"When we were out at sea," he said, "they called all hands on deck. No one had a radio, and the only contact was by word of

mouth. Doolittle said, 'Gentlemen, we're going to Tokyo.'"

When it was actually time to take off and leave the ship, Bower said they didn't have time to be scared. He said that he remembered that on the carrier, they were all bored to tears, so they were anxious to get started, but they still had 400 miles to go until takeoff when it all began.

"We airmen were sleeping when our ship met a foreign vessel," said Bower, "and the loudspeakers called out, 'All hands man your battle stations.' That scared everybody! I just got up, got what I needed to fly—my jacket and my low-profile shoes—and left." He also took his pistol, which his father had carried in WWI.

When he got to his plane, he said he was not scared, that there was only one feeling, and that was to get off that carrier.

This is how Bower remembers it all:

"When I went up on the deck, of course everything was in chaos because we were going. I got my crew and got on the airplane; two fellows were in back, three were in front.

"At that time there wasn't any feeling because you had to go. I was just

Spotlight: Bill Bower, cont.

feeling the next thing: get off that carrier. We took off at 10-15 minute intervals.

"Each pilot took off on his own, made a circle, went back over the carrier, then stayed down at low levels right above the waves. We just kept going and going until at last this beautiful green island appeared in the haze."

[Bower paused here. We could see he was picturing what the island looked like. Of course, this island was Japan.]

"I made a left turn and headed towards Tokyo. Within a short time, sure enough, there was Tokyo Bay. We could see the Naval Shipyard."

[Over his primary target, the Naval Shipyard, there were barrage balloons. So Bower went to his secondary target: an oil refinery, a tank yard, and a warehouse.]

"We dropped our bombs, and after that, we stayed real close to the ocean. We set our course to go to China. We stayed on that course a long period of time. Then we climbed to save fuel. We didn't know what China looked like. We kept going and going and going, and all of a sudden, it got dark."

While some of the planes flew low and crashed, Bower

flew high. One engine quit, and everyone went forward and put on their parachutes. They knew they were over land, and Bill said, "Let's get ready."

They opened the hatch, the other engine quit, and they all took turns jumping out. Last was Bower. It was his first and last time ever parachuting.

"I floated down and touched down rather gently," he said. "It was raining and I was exhausted, so I rolled up in that chute and went to sleep. I knew I was alive, but I didn't know if my crew was."

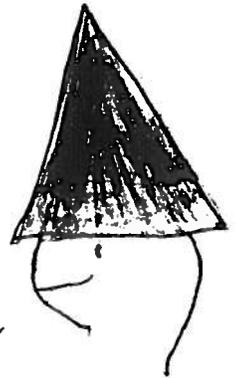
When he woke up in the morning, he walked around a little and saw he had landed right by a giant cliff. It was a good thing he didn't walk around when it was dark! He wrapped up his parachute and walked down a trail to the bottom of the cliff, where he met a Chinese man. All Bower knew how to say in Chinese was "*Lushu hoo megwa fugi*," which means "I am an American."

"He just grinned at me," Bower said, "and I thought, 'My gosh! I hope he's Chinese!'"

The man took Bower to a house, where a family took him in. He knew they were Chinese but didn't know if

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Tokyo



they were friendly or unfriendly.

"Then missionaries came in, and they could speak English," said Bower. "Everyone knew what we had done and that we were friendly to the Chinese."

He later met up with his own crew and Doolittle. He said that the Chinese treated him very kindly.

Then, he went to Tibet, then into India. He crossed India on a train to Arabia, where he said he "hitch-hiked" a ride on a Pan American flight to Lagos, Nigeria. Then he took a flying boat to Brazil. (A flying boat is a plane that can land in the water.) From Brazil, he went back to the U.S. and his family's home in Ohio.

"I had fallen in love before the mission," he said, "and somehow they flew her out to Ohio. A priest married us, and we got in my '44 convertible and drove back to Denver, where I had been living."

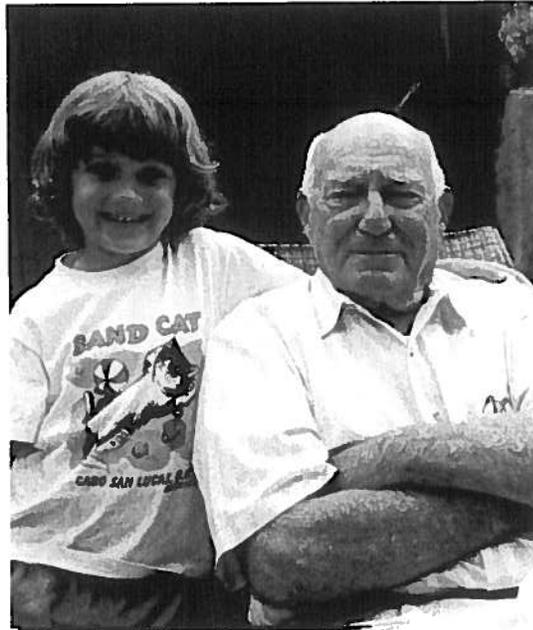
His wife, Lorraine, was from Denver.

All the Raiders got a hero's welcome.

"We got to be in a lot of parades and got our backs slapped a lot."

He went back to work in the war, in Africa, Italy, and England. After the war, he stayed with the Air Force until 1966. He

retired with the title of Colonel.

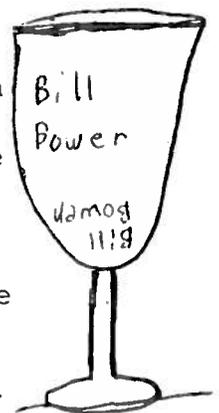


Eli with Bill Bower.

Before he retired, he was stationed in Newfoundland. He was the first pilot to land on an Arctic runway without skis.

After retiring, he and Lorraine moved to Boulder, where they built a house on Dennison Circle. Bower built the house himself, he said, because he didn't have a job at the time. They had four children.

Every year, the Doolittle Raiders have a reunion. At it, they toast those who have gone before them. They use a set of silver goblets that the city of Tucson, Arizona, gave them in 1959. There's one of each of the 80 men on the mission. Each has a name of one of the



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The Boardman Camera

August 30, 2008

Spotlight: Bill Bower

men engraved on it, right-side up and upside down. They stay in a glass case, and at the reunion, they do a roll call. Someone says, "here" when his name is called, or it's silent. If it's silent, it means that person has died, so they turn his goblet upside down and put it back in the case. After the roll call, they toast "those who have gone before."

When there are only two goblets left, the two remaining men will share a bottle of cognac from 1896, which is the year that

Doolittle was born. And they'll complete the ceremony for the last time.

We hope Bill Bower gets to drink the cognac!



The goblets and cognac.

War Hero

When I asked Bill Bower what it was like, living his whole life as a war hero, he said, "I'm not a hero. I just did a job, just like if your mommy needs some milk, and your daddy goes and gets it."

We see his point, but he really is a war hero.

Joke of the Weekend

What do you call fish with no eyes?

Fsh!



Thanks to Jenny and Amy Greene for the joke this weekend.

Weather Forecast

Mostly sunny Sat. and Sun.; highs around 90°; lows in the upper 50's. Light breeze in the afternoon and a chance of a thunderstorm on Sun. Mostly cloudy Mon., Labor Day; highs in the low 80's; lows in the low 50's. Chance of afternoon thunderstorms.

Briggs, Tina

From: Diane Bergstrom [earthmasks@hotmail.com]
Sent: Sunday, August 11, 2013 4:50 PM
To: Diane Bergstrom; Briggs, Tina
Cc: Mary Brannaman; Mindy Bower; JimSusan Bower; Bill Bower
Subject: To name a park.....

Hi!

I am responding to the solicitation of public opinion to name a small west Boulder park after retired Colonel Bill Bower and would like to submit the following article that appeared in the Highlander Monthly the year Bill passed away. It will give you more insight into the man he was, the neighbor he was, the community he served and how well loved and respected he was by many. I would love to see the park named after him and believe he would have been very pleased too. He adored children and always had time for them, and in his later years, when I knew him, he would have preferred to talk and play with children rather than discuss his on historic accomplishments.

Please let me know if you would like to have photos that accompanied this article, or any other photos of Bill with children he knew.

Diane Bergstrom, 720.300.8144

We Get By With A Little Help From Our Friends

Article & Photographs by Diane Bergstrom for Animals & People Together

The lyrics came to mind to the "title" song as I observed Ty, a large border collie mix who is obsessed with retrieving or mouthing anything from blades of grass to 10' branches, help Ace, an aging schnauzer mix with diminishing eyesight, hearing, and sense of smell, find his lost stick. If I didn't throw the stick directly in Ace's line of vision, the search was on. Younger and faster Ty, with stick in mouth, barked on the run, located Ace's lost stick, nosed it then tapped it with his foot. If Ace was paying attention, he then followed him to the treasure. Ty seemed just as pleased and herded Ace back toward me. I hummed the old Beatle's tune while I observed this action enough to establish a pattern of dog helping dog.

Animals and People Together (a non-profit organization) recognizes, values and supports the cyclical healing that can happen when people help people, people help animals, animals help animals, animals help people. Last month, Ace, who helps me with my elder care, and I had to say goodbye to a beloved client who, after leading a rich and full life, passed away one month shy of his 94th birthday. I originally started helping him, then Ace joined me to help him, then as the cycle spun, we all helped each other. The "Colonel" was a life-long dog lover who quickly took to Ace and they became devoted, caring friends. The Colonel, concerned about Ace's welfare, once asked, "Does his family think as highly of him as we do?" and was ready to send him to his daughter if the answer wasn't satisfactory.

Ace sensed the extra attention needed to help an aging body that couldn't bend easily, by tucking a ball on to the wheelchair seat and nosing it under an arthritic hand for games of fetch. Dog play accomplished therapeutic exercise and range of motion activities. The Colonel become more alert and engaged with a leash in his hand and looked forward to "walking the dog." Ace instinctively heeled next to the wheelchair, without ever pulling on the leash—even when squirrels were sighted. Ace took "orders" exceptionally well and soaked in the praise and affection from the Colonel. He also enjoyed the pace. When the Colonel napped, Ace napped. When the Colonel sat at the table or in front of the TV, Ace sat at his feet, the Colonel often confirming his position. He observed, "Ace works really well with me. An old dog and an old dog." The Colonel enriched Ace's life, giving him undivided attention and sometimes, when the mind drifted back to the Air Force days, pondered how well he would fly, confirming I understood Ace would be traveling with him.

The Colonel's social circle became Ace's social circle, every visitor was a potential ball-thrower and he soon knew everyone on the Colonel's close-knit street. After retirement, the Colonel richly gave back to his community: serving on non-profit boards and city committees, delivering meals to the home-bound, gleaned corn for Community Food Share, starting Optimist Clubs, and founding local chapters for various organizations. His was an exemplary life of service, leadership, loyalty, gratitude, optimism, engagement, consideration, commitment, patriotism, humility, bravery, generosity, honor, kindness, humor, common sense and love. Being the retired father on the street, the Colonel tracked which working fathers traveled the farthest, and on snowy days, ensured their driveways were shoveled first. He arranged lawn golf tournaments for the neighborhood boys, crafting trophies for the winners. He instructed them on rocket building in his garage. Some of those children, now adults, still stopped by to visit on lawnchairs in the front yard, and all played with Ace. Except for visiting dogs. Then Ace took up a protective position under the wheelchair where he subtly, silently raised an upper lip.

During a visit several months ago, the Colonel and his daughter discussed their favorite departed dogs whom they expected to see in the afterlife. The Colonel named, "Willum", his favorite dog from 70 years ago. A photo of the Colonel, with his arms around Willum, was displayed at the funeral and his daughter noted how much Ace resembled Willum. The day the Colonel passed, I lowered the hospital bed for Ace to say goodbye. He gently laid his head on the Colonel's arm for a few moments, then curled up next to the bed, his sentry position for the last several weeks. While a daughter hugged and comforted a granddaughter, Ace wedged himself between their legs, seemingly to comfort them both. The Colonel had "owned" Ace as family and Ace made this family his own. While making funeral arrangements, and notifying many friends and family, the Colonel's daughters asked that Ace attend the service. He was the only dog invited. Wearing his black neck band, he approached people he knew, sat quietly next to the pew during the service, and wandered through the visitors as we watched a B25B Mitchell bomber do fly-bys over the church. People I didn't know greeted Ace by name. A grownup golf trophy recipient tossed pinecones for him. When the family gathered for a photograph before the service, Ace trotted over to the posed group and sat down, front and center. As I called him back, the family insisted he stay. No one would have been more pleased than the Colonel. His passing leaves a hole in many people's lives and in a way, Ace

filled a hole in his. Ace and I love and miss you very much, Colonel, but we know that Willum is so happy to be with you again.

Briggs, Tina

From: Joseph Boardman [boardman@aigllc.com]
Sent: Friday, April 26, 2013 9:20 AM
To: Briggs, Tina
Subject: Bill Bower Park

Dear Ms. Briggs,

I'm writing to join the growing list of neighbors who believe the best name for our new Pocket Park is Bill Bower Park. I'll explain why, but first I need to thank you for the great meeting this week at Bear Creek. All the neighbors appreciate the persistence you and your P&R colleagues have shown in getting us this far along, to where we can really see the new park coming. I know we can come across as a tough crowd but we really do appreciate the service we get from the City.

Once I heard the idea about naming the park after Bill, I knew it was the only and best choice. Bill was not only a true American Hero but I never met a nicer man. He was capable, humble and so kind to children. Table Mesa is not exactly Mapleton Hill when it comes to history, but Bill is our exception. Bill and his wife, Lorraine moved to Boulder in 1966, and built their own house, by hand, just as the neighborhood was coming into being. The both lived in that house, on Dennison overlooking the park, for the rest of their lives. Bill died just two years ago. Here is the link to the Daily Camera story about him: <http://tinyurl.com/bill-bower-obit>. There was a moving B-25 flyover at his funeral at St. Martin de Porres, where he was a parishioner for many years, the church just across the street from the park. So, obviously, he is as historic and as relevant a neighborhood person as Table Mesa can have.

No doubt others have related Bill's Doolittle Raiders actions to you. But what strikes me about it all was knowing him as a person, shaking his hand, sitting with him outside his house under the Flatirons. And then contrasting that with what he did and how brave he was. He was so humble and kind. No hero attitude. His quote was, "We had a job to do and we did it, same as everybody."

Yet he was one of the 16 Pilots-in-Command of the B-25s that sent the first message back to Japan that we would not tolerate being attacked. I'm no fan of war. Neither was Bill, he chose a highly defended military target to limit civilian casualties from his actions. I've got real issues with our two most recent wars and pray we never fight another. But WWII really was different, and honoring Bill can help keep that fading memory alive. In that conflict millions of Citizen Soldiers dropped what they were doing and headed into the four corners of the globe to protect freedom and overturn tyranny, for people they didn't know and never had met. Bill's job, taking that bomber off the Hornet on a one-way flight, was no doubt considered by those who sent him literally a suicide mission. But he did it. And he and his entire crew survived.

When we could get him to discuss it, his favorite part to recount was not the dangerous takeoff and famous mission itself, when he literally had the lives of his crewmen and the hopes of the Nation in his hands. Instead, he talked about the end of the mission. Once they got to China, in the dark, no homing beacons despite the plans, they were lost and out of fuel. He was unsure if the land below the clouds was Japanese-held or not. He said that as they ran out of fuel, he climbed the plane as high as he possibly could above the clouds and wished his crew good luck as they bailed out one by one. Last to leave, Bill jumped into the dark over China and pulled his ripcord.

His favorite part of the story, however, was about when he hit the ground. It was dark. They had been separated. He knew that morning would bring its own challenges. So he said he rolled himself up in his parachute and decided to get some much-needed rest. Deal with tomorrow when it comes. At dawn he saw he

had landed literally on the very edge of a several-hundred-foot cliff. Had he rolled himself up ~~Attachment E~~ direction, he would have died falling of that cliff. This irony about the thin line between where we find danger and where we find comfort, really seemed to give him a kick. With the story told, he would brush off any admiration, telling kids, "I'm not a hero, I just did a job, like if your mommy needs some milk and your daddy goes and gets it." That is who Bill was, and it was no milk run.

Coincidentally the Doolittle Raiders were in the news this week again. They had a tradition of meeting yearly and honoring those who had died,. The final meeting was this week, where the three survivors toasted their comrades with a special bottle of 1896 cognac they had been saving. I'm sure many who knew him are thinking of Bill this week.

So, please do what you can and let me know what I can do to make this happen. I'd be happy to come to a PRAB meeting or a City Council meeting to relate this, as would many of his neighbors here.

Thanks for reaching out to the neighborhood to look for a name. Bill Bower Park would be a fitting tribute to this remarkable Citizen of Boulder, the Nation and the World.

Best Regards,

Joe Boardman
2935 Baylor Dr
Boulder, CO 80305
303 543-9960