



# Among Friends

A Publication of the Friends of the Chula Vista Library

Winter 2017

## Museum Exhibit on Rohr Opens Jan. 29

Annual Friends Meeting Set for Same Day

The history of Rohr Aircraft Corporation, started by Fred Rohr, a major employer in Chula Vista from the 1940s to the 1990s, will be the focus of the new exhibit in the Chula Vista Heritage Museum's space inside the Civic Center Library branch. This exhibit follows the Great Flood of 1916 exhibit, which opened in January 2016.

The exhibit will open at 3:30pm on Sunday, January 29, 2017. Local historian Steve Schoenherr will give a presentation on Rohr for the Friends' annual meeting, which will begin at 2:00pm, January 29, in the Civic Center Library auditorium.

The meeting will also include an overview of the Friends 2016 accomplishments and 2017 goals and election of officers to the Friends' executive board. Shauna Stokes has been nominated to continue as president, Helyn Sloan has been nominated as secretary, and Christy Albon and Barbara Rosillo have been nominated to continue as Members-at-Large.

The public is invited to the meeting and to the exhibit opening and reception that will follow.

Schoenherr, who is president of both the Friends' Museum Board and the South Bay Historical Society, has done much of the research for the new exhibit, which

will include photographs, materials from the company and its retired employees, items from the Library's local history collection, and other materials from Jennifer Luther, the granddaughter of Fred Rohr. Members of the Museum Board contacted former Rohr employees for their stories and memorabilia. The exhibit will include a new feature whereby museum attendees can use their smart phones to scan a QR code in a display case and link to a web page with more information about the display.

The Rohr company had a profound impact on the history of Chula Vista and the aircraft industry. It was the world's largest producer of engine power packages from World War II to the 1990s. Fred Rohr pioneered the concept of a "feeder" subcontractor supplying vital airplane components to the factory where the plane was assembled. He developed new tools such as the drop hammer and new materials such as honeycombed titanium.

The company employed up to 10,000 workers in its 67 buildings on 162 acres along the Chula Vista bayfront from "G" Street to "J" Street. The influence of the Rohr weekly payroll was dramatically demonstrated in 1954 when Fred Rohr paid his workers in silver

dollars, flooding the community with bags of coins.

The exhibit is funded by the Local Heritage Museum Chapter of the Friends of the Chula Vista Library and a Community Enhancement Program Grant, via Supervisor Greg Cox, from the San Diego County Board of Supervisors.



World War II Nacelle Production



Fred Rohr and his drop hammer



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**Georgie  
the  
Gecko**

We are sad to inform you that Georgie the gecko has passed away. She was a favorite attraction in the children's room at the Civic Center Library branch for nearly 11 years.

The interesting aquarium display showing her tunnel and her colorful beauty was a constant source of pleasure to children and adults. Her name George came from a contest among the children when everyone thought she was a male. She adapted well to her new name Georgie when it was discovered she was a female.

For some time Georgie did not appear well. After a move to the South Chula Vista Library she passed away on Friday, November 18, 2016.

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Yes, I want to support the Chula Vista Public Library and the Chula Vista Heritage Museum as a member of the Friends of the Chula Vista Library. Enclosed is my tax-deductible contribution, payable to FCVL:

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