

Brookhaven Buzz

Volume 18
No. 8



*Covering Brookhaven, Buckhead,
Chamblee, Dunwoody & Doraville*



Good luck,
students,
with the
upcoming
school year!

57th Fighter Group Restaurant Airborne Again!



A venerable Atlanta legend is about to be taken out of mothballs and prepped for flight. For over 25 years, the 57th Fighter Group restaurant, in “on-again/ off-again” mode, has held court at the edge of DeKalb-Peachtree Airport near Brookhaven. David Tallichet, a World War II fighter pilot and founder of Specialty Restaurants Corp. which at one time operated over 80 theme restaurants, named the 57th Fighter Group after an actual combat team. According to accounts of the time: “When Mr. Tallichet opened his restaurant, he flew a B-17 here and parked it out front. The crowds were so big, you couldn’t find a place to park.”

The eatery’s décor is in the style of a World War II-era French villa, fortified with sandbags and festooned with black and white period photos and maps. Military trucks, Jeeps, gun turrets and a pair of full-size fighter planes dot the grounds and ratchet up the realism. The menu was no-nonsense American—steaks, chops, seafood etc.—and the 57th was considered the area’s destination Sunday brunch spot. Brunching to big band music while watching the planes come and go at DeKalb-Peachtree Airport was a Brookhaven ritual.

Those bygone days will soon return as the 57th decommissioned for well over a year, is set to re-emerge with a fresh coat of paint. Patrick Epps, owner of nearby Epps aviation, has purchased the 57th Fighter

Continued on page 11

Pioneers of Atlanta Historical Society, 1942



Wilbur Kurtz, Sr. (left, wearing hat), Beverly M. DuBose, Jr. (back row), Franklin Garrett (center), and Beverly M. DuBose, Sr., on the steps of the old Henry Alexander residence, at the current site of Phipps Plaza.

In the 1930s there was very little sense of history in Atlanta, but individuals were making informal contacts to preserve it. Artist Wilbur Kurtz painted such detailed historical watercolors of Atlanta during the Civil War that he served as a consultant for the film *Gone with the Wind*. He met nearly every weekend with Beverly DuBose, Sr., a book collector and also a student of the Civil War.

Kurtz and DuBose befriended young Franklin Garrett, a Western Union employee who was passionate about his study of the history of Atlanta. He joined the two old men on regular weekend excursions, visiting local Civil War sites and rural homes where memories of the war were still fresh.

Beverly DuBose, Jr., the youngest of the group, was interested in historical artifacts and began to use a mine detector at area Civil War battlefield sites, putting together a fine collection. By the 1940s these four men were contributing their expertise to the fledgling Atlanta Historical Society, after attorney Walter McElreath had led the drive to start it in 1926.

Dr. Paul Hudson, longtime resident of the Brookhaven area, historian at Georgia Perimeter College and a Franklin Garrett Award recipient from the Atlanta Historical Society, writes stories for the Buzz.