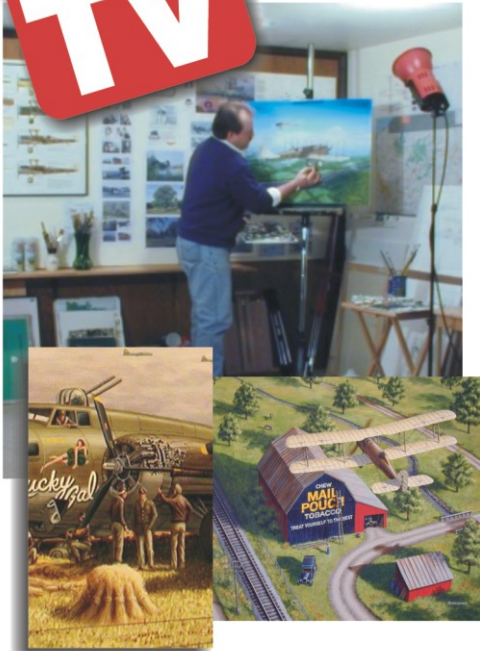


Whew! That Was Close!

After the bad experience of having our canopy destroyed in a storm the first night last year, I spent the past few months wondering if I'd be accepted back to the People's Choice Festival in Boalsburg, PA. I was! So, we hope to see you July 14, 15, 16 & 17, 2005 at the festival in the huge field in front of the Pennsylvania Military Museum. I highly recommend the hot sausage sammy's and *REAL* lemonade!

On The Pennsylvania Road...



I recently had the privilege of a visit from WNEP Channel 16's Mike Stevens, host of "On the Pennsylvania Road". Mr Stevens stumbled across some of my work at a show in Lewisburg, PA last year and was fascinated by the detail in the paintings. I've always loved talking about aviation and was never shy about it, but something about that big camera in my face made me very uncomfortable. Mike, however, had a calming effect on me and we had a great time. The show aired in November. Visit them at www.wnep.com

Not Quite Dry...



"Down & Out" by Michael R. Newcomer

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Hot off the easel, this just completed painting depicts a not uncommon scene during World War II. Boeing B-17 Flying Fortresses returning to their bases in England after a mission over Hitler's "Fortress Europe". The B-17 carried a crew of ten men who, when attacked by enemy fighters, would man their .50 caliber machine guns and try to ward off the axis planes. You can shoot at a plane but "flak" or high altitude anti-aircraft artillery was a different story. The shells would burst all over the sky with no warning and fill the paths of the oncoming planes with shards of steel, ripping everything in its path. Everything. Aluminum, plexiglas, leather and flesh. The planes could try to evade the flak until they were lined up with their targets. Then they would have to fly straight and level until their bombs were dropped. Perfect targets.

However, a fictional plane, "Lucky Gal" lives up to her namesake in that she brought all her crew home. Short of fuel and badly damaged, she made a rough landing in an English wheatfield. This painting will be available as a limited edition print in late winter or early spring.

New Friends at the Smithsonian

I was recently asked by the Smithsonian Postal Museum for help with their website's educational section and am pleased with the way it turned out. My painting "Colleagues" is featured on a page that explains the parts of an airplane for kids and it's fascinating the way the web folks made it interactive. Visit their wonderful new website at: www.postalmuseum.si.edu



Detail of "Colleagues"

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The only time an aircraft has too much fuel on board is when it is on fire.

— Sir Charles Kingsford Smith