



The AMA History Project Presents: Autobiography of THOMAS W. GURBACH



August 8, 1930 - October 21, 2024

AMA #480684

Written & Submitted by TWG (11/2002); Transcribed & Edited by SS (11/2002), Reformatted by JS (08/2009); Updated by JS (11/2024)

Career:

- Graduated from Indiana State University in 1952 and 1955
 - Served in the U.S. Army from 1952 to 1954; stationed in Germany
 - From 1955 to 1994, taught technical drawing and computer-related courses at three different universities
 - Worked for several summers in mechanical and architectural drafting as well as industrial design, industrial model building and CAD jobs
 - Since retiring in 1994, has done aviation art on the computer
 - Started volunteering at AMA Headquarters in Muncie, Indiana, in 1999 and has been involved with many projects for the National Model Aviation Museum and the Lee Renaud Memorial Library
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Thomas W. Gurbach was born in 1930 in Terre Haute, Indiana, and has had a long time interest in airplanes. During his public-school years, Tom built solid models of planes and cars. He graduated from Glenn High School (near Terre Haute) in 1948.

Tom continued his education at Indiana State University where he first graduated in 1952. After graduating, Tom served in the U.S. Army until 1954 and was stationed in Berlin, Germany. He received another degree from Indiana State University a year later.

After receiving his second degree in 1955, Tom taught technical drawing and computer-related courses at Rose Polytechnic Institute (now Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology), the University of Cincinnati and at Ball State University until he retired in 1994.

During the same time he was teaching, Tom worked for several summers in mechanical and architectural drafting as well as industrial design, industrial model building and CAD jobs.

Since retiring in 1994, Tom has done aviation art on the computer and enjoys attending the Oshkosh fly-in as well as visiting aircraft museums and traveling in general.

He has been volunteering at AMA Headquarters in Muncie, Indiana since 1999 and has helped with the following projects:

- Reorganization of the Lee Renaud Memorial Library and creation of VHS collection featuring model and full-sized planes
- Made drawings for several National Model Aviation Museum projects

- Built a flier/brochure rack for the museum lobby
- Built a new bulletin board for the front entry with another volunteer
- Built gimbals for the museum and traveling RCAD model aircraft trainers

Tom married in 1957 and has two children.

(signed) Tom Gurbach
November 2002

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