



Nick Cooney, right, stands with his crew in 1945.

Gunner

Continued from Page A1

shot off," he continued. "There were times when I wished I could get out and push it to make it go faster."

Cooney said his worst experience was on a torpedo run on a Japanese convoy in the China Sea.

"All our planes from all our carriers were vectored out to try and find it and, unfortunately, if you want to call

it that, we found them first," he said.

It was a small convoy of seven Japanese ships, including a couple of Japanese destroyer escorts.

Fighters were up high, he said.

"They came in diving with rockets ahead of us," Cooney said. "We were out on the fringe and we were coming in from both sides and we hit a couple of the Japanese ships."

Just in case the worst happened, Cooney had written a "last letter" about what to do with his life insurance and put it in his locker.

After the war, Cooney returned to Philadelphia and met a "beautiful girl from West Catholic" and married her in July 1946.

"It was always a joke in our house whereby I said 'I spent three years in World War II and 67 in World War III.'"

Tinsmith makes biplanes out of recycled soda cans



Jack Fichter/CAPE MAY STAR AND WAVE

Jake Sanflippo, of Gloucester Township, makes biplanes from recycled soda cans. He was selling them last week during the 18th annual AirFest at Naval Air Station Wildwood.

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

ERMA — While a B-17 and B-24 roared across the sky

FRANK THEATRES
SEPT. 5th THRU SEPT. 11th

RIO STADIUM #2
3801 Rt. 9 South #1 • Rio Grande, NJ 08242
Additional Pricing for 3D Features
24 Hour Movie Hotline 609-889-4799

****The Identical PG 11:20, 1:50, 4:55, 7:25, 9:35**
The Hundred-Foot Journey PG 11:00, 1:40, 4:20, 7:00, 9:40
****November Man R 11:30, 2:00, 4:30, 7:20, 10:00**
If I Stay PG13 11:15, 2:10, 4:40, 7:15, 9:55
Let's Be Cops R 11:40, 2:20, 5:00, 7:35, 10:05
Guardians of the Galaxy PG13 11:05, 1:45, 4:25, 7:10, 9:50
****As Above So Below R 11:50, 2:30, 4:50, (7:30), (9:45)**
Duran Duran Unstaged PG13 Wednesday Only 7:30
Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles PG13 11:10, 1:30, 4:10, (7:02), (9:30)
****Dolphin Tale 2 PG Thurs Premier 7:00, 9:30**

HARBOR 5 THEATRE
www.franktheatres.com
271 96th Street • Stone Harbor, NJ 08247

Harbor 5 is closed for the season.
Thank you for making Summer 2014 great!

**** No Passes • [] Friday - Wednesday • () No Wednesday**

outside the Naval Air Station Wildwood Aviation Museum, Jake Sanflippo's "air force" hung from strings of fishing line. His biplanes bore the names "Coke," "Sprite" and "Dr. Pepper."

The Gloucester Township resident was selling his soda and beer can airplanes inside the big hangar during the 18th annual AirFest last week at the museum.

Sanflippo said he started making airplanes from soda cans as a hobby. He said he did not have a design with which to work.

"I sort of made it myself," he said. "The trick is in the propeller."

Each blade of the propeller is cut and pitched to a certain angle so it spins well in the wind, he said. The propeller, which takes an hour to make, has a bearing inside, Sanflippo said.

He said different size cans — such as 12 ounce, 22 ounce and 24 ounce — make different size airplanes.

With the public actively involved in recycling, Sanflippo said it is getting harder to find cans. He said he does not drink beer, which would provide cans for larger planes.

"We do all right on the sodas," Sanflippo said. Friends help him locate cans, which has hazards — such as bees attracted by the remaining soda in the can, he said.

Landing gear for the planes are made of coat hanger struts and bottle cap tires. It takes two cans to make the wings of the biplanes, another can for the propeller, one for the body of the plane and one for the tail, Sanflippo said. The propeller shaft runs all the way through the body of the plane.

It takes him about two and half hours to build a plane, not counting the time needed to collect the cans and sanitize them.

Sanflippo estimates he has built 3,000 to 4,000 can airplanes. He said Coke has four sizes of cans, as does Budweiser. Arizona Iced Tea cans produce larger airplanes, Sanflippo said. Coors cans are blue on the inside, he noted.

A regular size plane is \$20, while a larger aircraft is priced at \$22. The aluminum cans do not rust, so the airplanes can be hung outside and spin in the wind, Sanflippo said.

WASHINGTON INN
Serving Dinner Daily from 5pm

Our Summer Wine Flights

12 Fun Wine Flights
30 Wines by the glass

THE WINE BAR
Five for Friday

\$1 Oysters
Every Night Until 7 pm

801 WASHINGTON STREET + 609-884-5697 + WWW.WASHINGTONINN.COM

THE RESTAURANTS ON BANK STREET

410 BANK STREET

Seafood with an Italian Flair

FRESCOS

Exotic New Orleans accented Cuisine

APPETIZERS
Farm Fresh Asparagus Amantine
Blacken Sea Scallops
Crabmeat Terrine
Havana Bay Shrimp
Tuna Beignets
Bayou Oyster Stew

ENTREES
Chilean Sea Bass Creole
Florida Keys Red Snapper
Cajun Shellfish Gumbo
Blackened Prime Rib

DESSERTS
Key lime pie
Bread Pudding

410 Bank Street
Cape May, NJ 08204
RESERVATIONS:
609.884.2127
ONLINE: 410bankstreet.com

APPETIZERS
Atlantic Cape Calamari
Point Judith Crab Torta
Seafood Salad
Beef Carpaccio
Caprese Salad 'Meta Secca'

ENTREES
Shrimp and Scallop
Pescatore
Seafood Fra Diavolo
Lemon & Herb Crusted Salmon
Tuscan Short Ribs

DESSERTS
Lemon Ricotta Cheesecake
Panna Cotta

412 Bank Street
Cape May, NJ 08204
RESERVATIONS:
609.884.0366
ONLINE: frescoscapemay.com

FREE PARKING

OYSSTER BAY
RESTAURANT & BAR
GREAT STEAKS and SEAFOOD

OPEN DAILY
HAPPY HOUR • 4pm – 6:30pm
Dollar Oysters • Dollar Clams • Mon. – Thurs.
DINNER from 5pm

615 Lafayette Street • Cape May, NJ • 609-884-2111

AART's Cape May Taxi
www.capemaytaxi.com
We're on your side
CALL 898-RIDE (898-7433)

- safe and reliable
- All local communities
- clean, comfortable
- airports
- local and distance
- child safety seats

ALEX AND ANI
(+) ENERGY

MADE IN AMERICA WITH LOVE

HENRY'S
Since 1972

407 WASHINGTON ST | CAPE MAY, NJ
609.884.0334

1236 BOARDWALK | OCEAN CITY, NJ
609.398.4238

POSITIVELY AUTHORIZED RETAILER