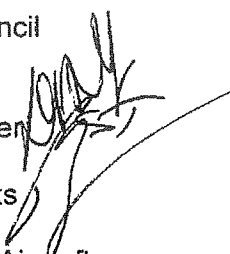


COUNCIL INFORMATION ITEM

October 9, 2007

TO: The Honorable Mayor and City Council
VIA: David Garcia, City Manager
Scott Tulloch, Assistant City Manager
FROM: Dave Byers, Director of Public Works
SUBJECT: Drop Hammer Monument For Rohr Aircraft



The Goodrich Corporation has donated a "Drop Hammer" to be used as a monument to Rohr Industries. This "Drop Hammer" project will be a partnership between the Friends of the Library, the County of San Diego, and the City of Chula Vista.

Rohr Industries was a catalyst in the evolution of Chula Vista, changing it from an agricultural community to our present day community. In the summer of 1941, Fred Rohr opened Rohr Aircraft with 800 employees. After the bombing of Pearl Harbor, Rohr Aircraft increased to 9,000 employees, which brought the need for more housing. New housing replaced the agricultural fields, changing Chula Vista forever.

In the 1930s, the outer skins of airplanes were predominately made of fabric. Aluminum was lightweight and durable and quickly became the material of choice. Fred Rohr designed the first drop hammer used in the aircraft industry that could form aluminum pieces. Although the "Drop Hammer" was sold to other companies, its creation is unique to Rohr Aircraft and represents a fitting monument to the company.

The Rohr "Drop Hammer" is a very large tool that is approximately 12' high, 6', wide, 8' long, and weighs several tons. It will be placed at Memorial Park next to the Heritage Museum. It will be enclosed within a 6' ornamental bar fence. Next to the "Drop Hammer" will be signage explaining to the public what it is, what it was used for, and its impact on the community. The Friends of the Library will pay for the cost for the project through a donation from the County of San Diego. City staff will supervise the installation. Any costs for vandalism, such as fence damage and graffiti, will be absorbed in Public Works Department's budget.

On September 26, 2007, the Parks and Recreation Commission endorsed this project with a 5-0 vote.