

ANOTHER

# LIBERATOR MYSTERY SOLVED!

THROUGH LOTS OF RESEARCH, A PREVIOUSLY UNKNOWN B-24 NOW HAS AN IDENTITY ALONG WITH A HISTORY. HOWEVER, THERE ARE MORE MYSTERY LIBS STILL OUT THERE

BY NICHOLAS A. VERONICO



Sitting at Dallas with its new and simple graphically pleasing paint scheme, B-24J 42-50801 has been overhauled and is now ready for a new operator. Notice the open nose cargo door. (Haney via Veronico Collection)

In the March 2021 issue of *Air Classics*, on Page 81, a photo showing a Consolidated B-24J Liberator sitting at the Skyways Inc., fixed base operation (FBO) drew a fair amount of attention. The photo was taken by the late Elvin Carlisle (1919–1984), and appeared in a column written by historian William R. “Bill”

Buckley of the Mooresville Public Library, Mooresville,

Indiana. Buckley’s local history blog is known as the “Mooresville [Indiana] Local History Treasure Trove” — and what a history trove it is. In his column posted on 5 December 2013, Buckley reported on a collection of aviation photographs donated to the library by the heirs of Elvin Carlisle. One of the most interesting images showed a B-24 sitting in front of

the Skyways FBO.

The question immediately arose as to where was the photo taken and which Liberator was it?

Because Carlisle had moved to the Los Angeles area, it was assumed that the photo was taken at one of the airfields in the region, and cars seen in the background dated the image to the early 1950s. After showing the photo to a number of experts, coupled with its Los Angeles basin connection, the collective brain trust came



This was the photograph we had of an unidentified B-24 Liberator sitting in front of the Skyways FBO. Some aviation historians thought the photo was shot in southern California and might have been the sole Liberator saved by Paul Mantz for post-war movie work. It appears the Lib has overpainted nose art/insignia. Further research has shown that this was not the case. Note the derelict Ercoupe and Cessna T-50 “Bamboo Bomber” NC52388 sliding downhill. (Elvin Carlisle via William R. “Bill” Buckley)