WESTPAC

DEFINING THE FUTURE OF WARBIRD RESTORATION

HOW WESTPAC RESTORATIONS HAS ESTABLISHED THE FUTURE FOR REBUILDING WORLD WAR TWO AIRCRAFT

BY MICHAEL O'LEARY

"I guess when it comes to Warbirds, you have these sort of defining moments," said Bill Klaers, president of WestPac Restorations. "For me, that involved my brother who owned a T-6. At the time, I was running a construction business and had little interest in aviation. One day my brother wanted me to go to an airshow in the T-6. I did and it was a great time. However, the next week we went to Chino and when we went around the corner of a hangar, here was this Corsair just starting up. The prop was turning, smoke was belching from the engine… that just did it for me!"

"My interest in Warbirds started off in a pretty interesting way," recalled WestPac vice-president Alan Wojciak. "I always had a fascination

A setting sun silhouettes WestPac's new facility at Colorado Springs.

Lockheed P-38F *White 33* shortly before restoration work began at WestPac. One of the first combat P-38s in the southwest Pacific, the Lightning is an amazing artifact of WWII history.