

I needed permission to use the image of a female WWII pilot on shirts, t-shirts, sweatshirts, etc. to be sold in our company store to employees and visitors.

I had permission to use the specific photograph, which was obtained from the Air Force Museum, but not her image itself.

The AF Museum could not provide any contact information for her estate. I contacted a number of retired military pilot-oriented historical associations without success.

I contacted a number of women in aviation-oriented sites without success.

She was born in Michigan, so I contacted that state's historical organization without success.

She passed away at age 62 in 1976 in Florida. I searched for her obituary in Florida papers (archives) without success.

I assumed at the age she died and the year she died that her parents were already deceased.

In all the information I could garner from the WWW, she was an only child and she had no children, and no mention of a surviving spouse.

The U.S. Patent Office database was searched to see if her image or name had been commercialized and it had not.

Having done all this and having obtained permission from the AF Museum to use the photo (they even provided a digital copy of the photo), we decided to go ahead and use her image as mentioned above.

Gene Somers
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Boeing Library Services, 62-LC