

Volume XIII, Issue 10

October 2005

# DIRIGO FLYER

## Inside this issue:

Ace in the Hole	1
Museum Notes	3
Greenville Photos	4
Brunswick Photos	5
Pathway Program	6
Calendar	7
Memorial Bricks	7
Membership Form	8

## ACE IN THE HOLE

By James E. McCarthy

The State of Maine, and New England as a larger entity, seemed to have that figurative “ace in the hole” as they reached for aviation influence in the 1940s, but that apparent advantage didn’t do what it might have done. Maine’s Senator Ralph Owen Brewster who exercised considerable authority up until, and through, World War II had the support and trust of the political leaders necessary to achieve that end. As Chairman of the Senate Aviation Sub-committee, he was in a position to have substantial influence in the award of international routes to US airlines.

Contrary to New England’s interest, his active support for a single “flag

carrier” did not help Northeast Airlines in its quest for approval of North Atlantic routes, some of which it had pioneered. Conversely, his support for Pan American as the US “flag” airline, perhaps somewhat in reaction to that aggressive support, did not result in the domestic routes that company had long pursued. Instead, the CAB, the Civil Aeronautics Board, in its economic jurisdiction awarded extensive North Atlantic routes, through southern Europe and the Middle East, and beyond, to TWA, and extended the authority for northern Europe, previously granted to American Export Airlines, to AOA, American Overseas Airlines.

*Continued on page 2...*

The airplane has unveiled for us the true face of the earth.

— *Antoine de Saint-Exupéry, 'Wind, Sand, and Stars,' 1939.*

### Newsletter Editor

Cameo Dunton  
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That left Northeast as the local service it had long been, and Pan American without the “fifth freedom” cross country connections for its Atlantic, Pacific Alaska, and Latin American Divisions.

Although there were later changes in their corporate existences, those decisions, no doubt affected Northeast and Pan American throughout their remaining business lives.

Senator Brewster was not left unscathed. Events following those actions, as touched upon in Martin Scorsese’s new movie, *The Aviator*, had a disastrous, if not immediate, effect on his government career.

Jim Brunelle, quoted in the December 24, 2004, *Portland Press Herald*, in regard to the 43<sup>rd</sup> anniversary of Brewster’s death, on December 25<sup>th</sup>, 1961, and the movie *The Aviator*, said that Brewster ... *is about to enjoy a resurrection of sorts.*

Brunelle goes on ... *Brewster, played by Alan Alda, comes into the movie as head of a special senate committee looking into military contracts in the mid-1940s. The Maine Republican targeted Hughes’ plane manufacturing company for collecting \$40 million from the government in developing two aircraft that had never been delivered.*

Brunelle now paraphrases Hughes’ claims about Brewster ... *he began by raising questions about Brewster’s motives. Two years earlier, after*

*Hughes’ Trans World Airlines was awarded overseas flying rights in competition with Pan American Airways, the Maine senator sponsored a bill to take back TWA’s government approved transatlantic routes... Hughes spread rumors about Brewster’s being in Pan Am’s pocket, having accepted free flights and accommodations for several Florida vacation trips and overseas junkets paid for by the airline. Furthermore, Hughes charged, Brewster had approached him secretly and offered to drop the congressional investigation if TWA would agree to a takeover by Pan Am.*

Such claims and counterclaims left the Senate hearing in a shambles. It was concluded without decision. This, and other things, unrelated to aviation, one of which was support for Senator Joe McCarthy, seriously eroded Brewster’s popularity at home, even in his own party. He was replaced in the Republican Primary in 1952 by retiring Governor Frederick Payne, whose biggest financial supporter was reported to be ... Howard Hughes.

The movie, *The Aviator*, is only a movie, replete with hyperbole, but for those of us connected with the aviation world it’s probably worth three hours in the dark in a theatre seat. →



**Minutes of Directors Meeting**  
**September 30, 2005**

Meeting called to order by Dan See at 6:05 pm. Directors present were Joseph Quinn, Dick Johnson, Stan Smith, Joel Gopan and Al Cormier. Several interested members were also present. Dan opened the meeting, the secretary was not present so the minutes were not read. The Treasurer gave his report and it was accepted as read. Joel reminded the board that the State Sales tax was due at the end of the year.

Al reported on the fuel state for the upcoming winter and suggested that we not heat the building but just the break room where the water pipes are. He noted that the chimney had yet to be repaired but would do it soon. An alternate meeting place for the winter was suggested.

Cameo reported on the newsletter and requested anyone who had items to include should get them to her soon.

Dan talked to the city about their concerns relative to the museum and they all claimed that they were behind us all the way. There doesn't seem to be any pressure on their minds for repaying the loan to repair the roof.

It was decided to close the museum on the 2nd Sunday of October. It was decided to have a picnic after Saturday's meeting. The committee consisted of Hank, Cameo, Mike, Dan and Joel offered to buy from the Commissary.

A member in attendance, Hank, reported on what he has been doing with signs and other plans he has for the future. Another member, Mike, reported on possible Air Guard memorabilia donations. Jim Nelligan reported on gift shop sales of \$139.00 and last years cost of fuel. Art Johnson reported sales of \$44.00 at Greenville.

Elections are due and a committee needs to be formed. 6 new board members are needed. Three for two years and three for one year. Nominating committee to consist of Mike, Dan, Joel, Al, Scott and Hank. There was a discussion to nominate Honorary directors and several prominent people were mentioned to be approached.

Norm talked about the New Hampshire Museum and the success they have had.

Nominated were: President: Les Shaw, V. Pres: Leo or Norm, Treasurer: Quinn, Sec: W Townsend It was suggested that the offices of President and Vice President be staggered. President for two years and Vice President for one year. Hank suggested we form a committee of accountant's for a fund raising committee. We also need an inventory committee to look after our exhibits. Hank closed nominations and it was seconded and voted.

Mike brought up the sign permits and found we were in violation but he would take care of it. Only two signs are allowed but temporary signs are ok.

Scott suggested that we dedicate the library to Leo Boyle as an archive. Leo Boyle Archives. A motion was made, seconded and approved.

Norm suggested that we get rid of the paperbacks in the library and pass them out to the returning troops by the greeters.

**New Business**

Dan read a letter from Leo Boyle regarding his archives. Scott advised that Leo wanted all his archives to go to the museum. Norm asked about the skeleton of the plane on display and what it's relation to Maine aviation was. It supposedly was representative of early CAP planes used during the war.

**Other Business**

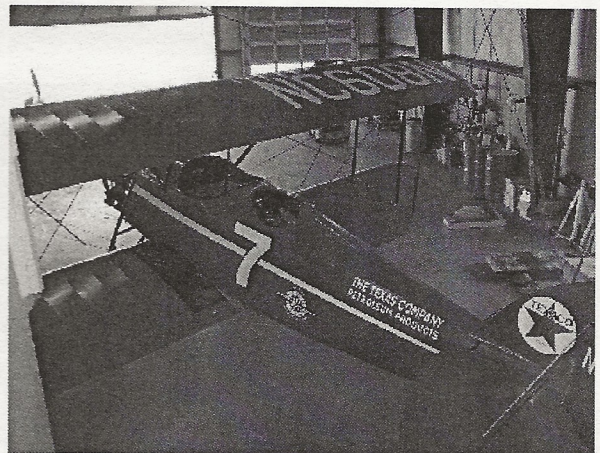
Jim Nelligan asked about the money that was paid for some bricks and was told it had been received. Hank brought up several projects he had in mind for the future. Dan suggested that he could donate a window in one of the bay openings but since it has to be safety glass it couldn't be used. Joel brought up our belonging to the Maine Surplus Org. but it wasn't thought necessary. Motion was made to adjourn, seconded and passed. Adjourned at 7:45.

*-Alfred Cormier*

**Texaco model airplane & a Maine connection**

For the past twelve years Texaco Oil Co. has produced a model airplane of aircraft owned by Texaco dating back to the 1920s. This years model will be of a ASO 1929 WACO, now owned by Mister Richard Hornbeck of Bowdoinham, Maine. The WACO is based at the Augusta, Maine airport. The model should be on sale at Texaco Stations in November or December 2005.

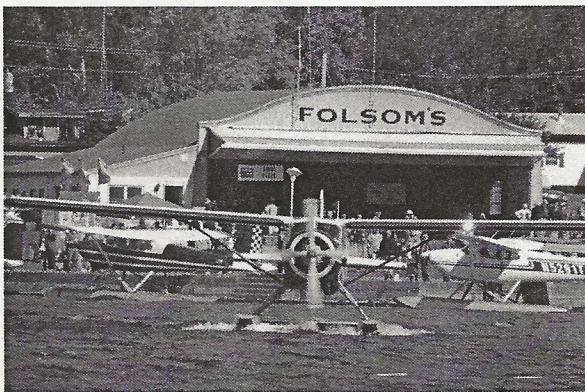
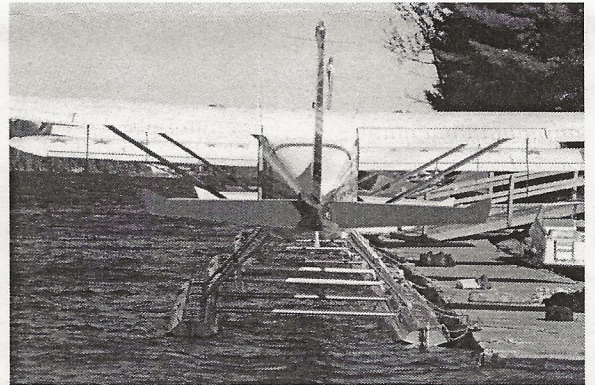
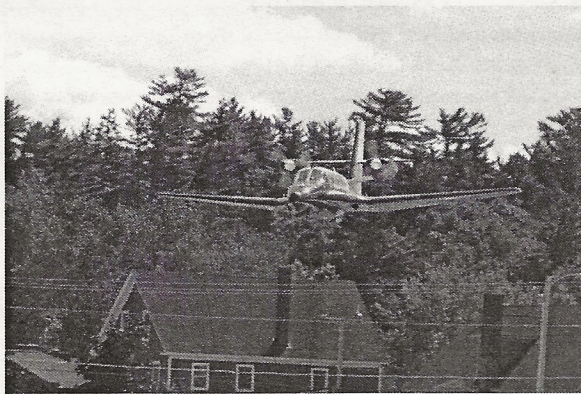
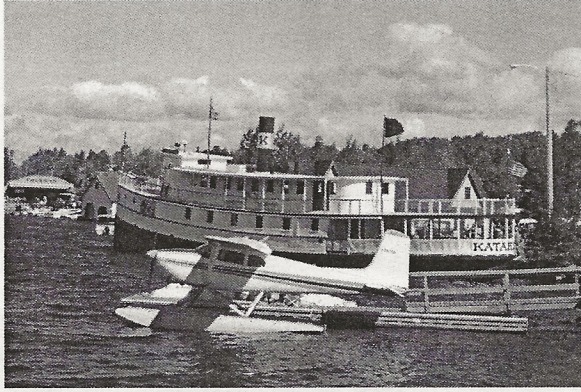
*-Norm Houle*





Greenville  
International  
Seaplane Fly-in

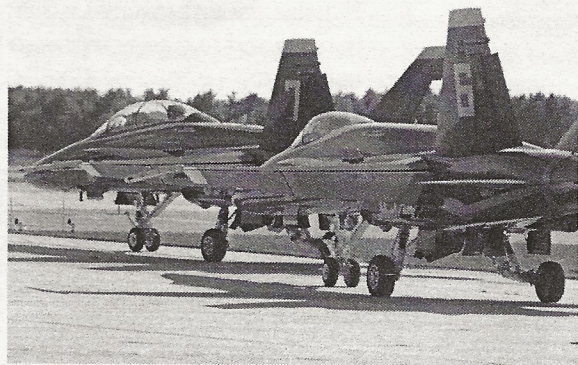
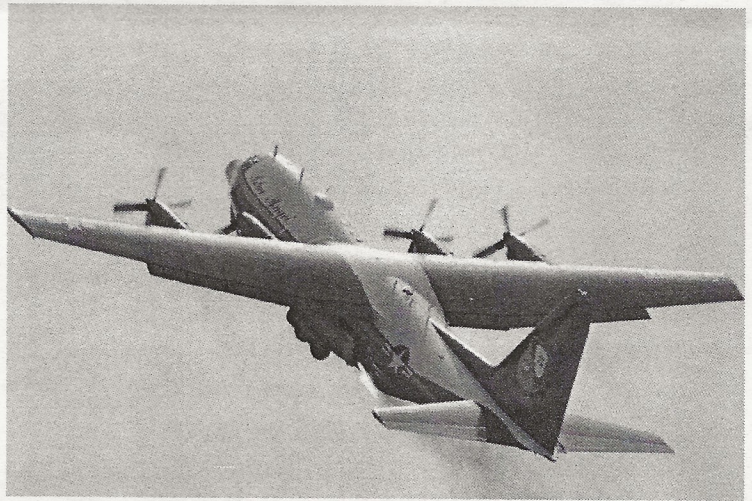
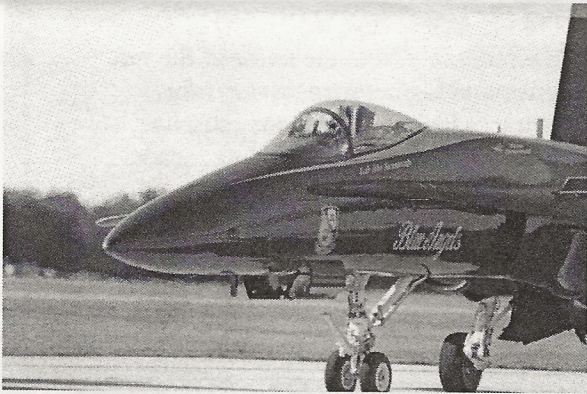
Photos by  
John Miller





**Brunswick Naval Air  
Station Airshow  
2005**

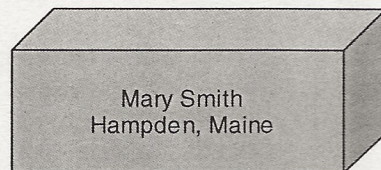
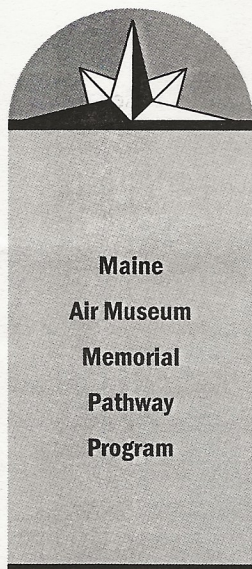
**Photos by  
John Miller**



## Buy a Brick and Support the Maine Air Museum

The Maine Air Museum is proud to announce the new Memorial Pathway Program. Here's how it works:

To successfully carry out and reach the museum vision, and to refurbish Building 98, the Maine Air Museum needs the financial support of businesses and public community leaders and individual private citizens. Your interest in preserving the rich Maine aviation history will require funding presently not available to the museum effort. To this end, the museum board has established the following plan for receiving your monetary donation and recognizing your gift permanently in the museum pathway and wall of honor. Remember: your donation is fully deductible.



### → Stratocumulus Member (SC) —

#### **\$100 Donation**

Entitles the gift giver to a one year membership and two-year museum pass and a benefactor's engraved 4"x8"x2.5" red clay brick with up to two lines (14 characters/line, .65" high) of commemorative test in the name of the gift giver and his/her memorial to others. Brick to be installed on the museum grounds, walkway or building façade.

### → Altostratus Member (AS) —

#### **\$150 Donation**

Entitles the gift giver to a two year membership and three-year museum pass, copy of The United States Air Force in Maine, and a benefactor's engraved 4"x8"x2.5" red clay brick with up to two lines (14 characters/line, .65" high) of commemorative test in the name of the gift giver and his/her memorial to others. Brick to be installed on the museum grounds, walkway or building façade.

### → Altocumulus Member (AC) —

#### **\$250 donation**

Entitles the gift giver to a five year membership and five-year museum pass and a benefactor's engraved 4"x8"x2.5" pearl gray marble brick with up to two lines (14 characters/line, .65" high) of commemorative test in the name of the gift giver and his/her memorial to others. Brick to be installed on the museum grounds, walkway or building façade.

### → Cirrus Member (CJ) —

#### **\$2500 Donation**

Entitles the gift giver to a life membership status and a benefactor's engraved three foot white marble setting bench with one line (27 characters/line, 2" high) of commemorative test in the name of the gift giver and his/her memorial to others. Bench to be installed in the museum building or on the museum grounds.

*The Maine Air Museum is wholly owned and operated by the Maine Aviation Historical Society.*

**Maine Aviation Historical Society**  
**Maine Air Museum**  
**Official Election Ballot**

President (One year term)

*Vote for one*

- Les Shaw
- \_\_\_\_\_

Vice President (Two year term)

*Vote for one*

- Norman Houle
- \_\_\_\_\_

Directors (Three for two years, three for one year terms)

*Vote for six*

- Les Shaw  
(President Nominee)
- Norman Houle  
(Vice President Nominee)
- Mike Foster
- Scott Grant
- Hank Marois
- Robert Umberger, Jr.
- James Nelligan
- Peter Hurd
- Michael Cornett
- Alfred Cormier
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

Please return in an envelope marked "Member Ballot" and mail to:

Maine Air Museum, PO Box 2641, Bangor, ME 04402-2641 or by email to mam@maineairmuseum.org marked "Member Ballot."

**Upcoming MAHS Meetings and Events**

November 12 10 a.m.  
 MAHS, Meeting, Maine Air Museum, Bangor, Maine.

December 10 10 a.m.  
 MAHS, Meeting, Maine Air Museum, Bangor, Maine.

*Programs for and any changes to these meetings will be announced.*

➔ **Museum Notes** ➔

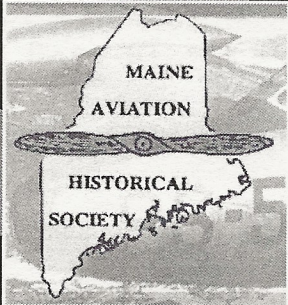
➔ **Picnic Thoughts?** Did you attend the October Picnic at the museum? A big thank you to all those involved and those that helped with setup, cooking, cleanup and making sure there was plenty of food. The rain wasn't a problem! What a treat to see a departing DC-10 full of troops pull by as we enjoyed our lunch. Please share your comments, questions and pictures and they may be included in a future issue of the Dirigo Flyer.

➔ **Got email?** Don't forget to send us your e-mail address if you want it listed in the Dirigo Flyer. It's a great way to keep in touch with other members, share information quickly and stay current on aviation issues and happenings.

➔ **Winter Excitement!** With winter upon us, it's a great time for our society to realign and prepare for another great summer. There are some great new exhibits in the works to enhance the museum for our visitors. Call now to volunteer and bring some excitement into your winter!

➔ **Dues are due!** For many members, dues are due this month. As membership records are now going to be kept on the museum's computer, please send your dues to the Bangor address. To make it easier for new people to get used to processing the dues, we thank you for sending them in as soon as possible. A red star on your label means your dues are due!

➔ **Got ideas?** MAHS meeting sites are flexible and we're always looking for guest speakers and new program ideas. If you have any ideas or if you can be of help, give the museum a call today!



## Maine Aviation Historical Society Maine Air Museum \* Membership Form

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Special Interests: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Dues are for one year,  
and membership will  
expire in the month you  
joined.

Annual membership  
includes 12 monthly  
newsletters!

Mail payment to:  
Maine Aviation  
Historical Society  
PO Box 2641  
Bangor, ME 04402-  
2641

Membership	Dues	Benefits
Regular	\$25 annual	Newsletter, Decal, Museum Admission
Family	\$35 annual	Newsletter, Decal, Museum Admission
Corporate	\$100 annual	Newsletter, Decal, Museum Admission
Supporting	\$100 annual	Newsletter, Decal, Museum Admission, 4 free passes
Lifetime	\$500*	Newsletter, Decal, Lifetime Membership
	* 2 annual \$250 payments	Number, Museum Admission, 10 free passes

We need volunteers-docents, mechanics, maintenance, librarians and exhibit specialists, etc.

Please call me. I want to be active in the organization.

I cannot join now, but would like to help. I am enclosing a check for \$\_\_\_\_\_.

Contributions over \$20 are tax deductible within the limits of the law.

I wish to support and obtain membership by purchasing a memorial brick.



Maine Aviation Historical Society  
PO Box 2641  
Bangor, ME 04402-2641

(207) 941-6757

Toll free in Maine: 1-877-280-6247

**Ballot Enclosed!  
Time to Vote!**