



DIRIGO FLYER

Vol. IV, No. 6 June 1996

Newsletter of the Maine Aviation Historical Society • 101 Monroe Avenue, Westbrook, Maine 04092 • 207-854-9972

June Meeting — Bangor

The June meeting was held on Saturday, June 8 at the Bangor International Airport with a large group in attendance. Don Strout had arranged for George Tinker of Bangor to talk about member Ken DeWitt who ran the airport at Old Town for years, starting in 1938. George told about flying for Ken over the years, and some of his hair-raising experiences. Ken first began flying about 1930, and working for him could be exasperating, exciting or both. With other of his acquaintances like Norm Houle, Don Strout, Doug Gould and Bob Bacon chiming in with their reminiscences, we heard an interesting pioneering life story. Hopefully, Ken will be at our next Bangor meeting to defend himself and tell us more.

We were happy to welcome Joyce Szabo from the University of New Mexico who was looking for more information on her uncle, Bill Szabo. Bill died some years ago when he disappeared on a flight. He was forced down on an ice-covered lake, and apparently slipped and fell into the propellor trying to start the engine. Imagine the drama when Bob Bacon walked up to Joyce and told her he was the one who found her uncle. Bob promises to have more excitement for us at our next Bangor meeting.

Next month's *Dirigo Flyer* will feature pictures of the Bangor meeting plus stories of two exciting hikes to crash sites with photos of the wrecks.

July — Owls Head and Brunswick

July is an exciting month with, hopefully, great Maine weather and air shows. This is also the month when the Society and we the members meet the public. July 6 and 7 are the dates for the Military Air Show at the Owls Head Transportation Museum. This is always a great weekend with a fine show, great exhibits and loads of people. Make sure to attend one of these days and stop by to visit.

July 19, 20 and 21 are the dates for the Great State O' Maine Air Show at the Brunswick Naval Air Station. An exciting flying show plus lots of static exhibits make this a worthwhile weekend and gives us great exposure to the public. Volunteers are needed to meet the people, answer questions and man the tables at these shows. All you need to do to help is appear.

Jack Denison Makes the News



Monday evening, June 17 at 8:30 p.m. on PBS Chanel 11, Fritz Weatherbee's "New Hampshire Crossroads" featured a segment on MAHS member Jack Denison, a well-known and respected personality in New Hampshire aviation. (Norm Houle Photo)

'96-'97 Flying Down East Calendar

The all-new edition of the *Flying Down East* calendar will be available any day now. Expanded to sixteen months (September 1996 to December 1997), the calendar features twenty great Maine aviation photos contributed by members. The calendar is financed by a small group of members and all profits above expenses will be contributed to the Maine Aviation Historical Society. This useful keepsake is only \$9.95 (see ad elsewhere in this newsletter), is especially useful for teachers and students, and makes the perfect gift for the air-minded. If every member buys a couple of calendars, it will go a long way toward covering our expenses.

T-Shirts Again Available

Last year's production of MAHS T-shirts sold out and a new batch is now available. It features our logo on the front in green and gold. Still only \$12.00 plus \$2.00 postage and tax. It is available in M, L and XL. Use the same address as the calendar to order. Send orders and payment to: 101 Monroe Avenue, Westbrook, ME 04092-4020.

Non-Profit Status

As of May 22, 1996, the Maine Aviation Historical Society received its IRS 501(c)(3) approval. We are now an approved non-profit organization and all gifts and donations are tax deductible within the limits of the law. Special thanks are due to David A. Lourie, our attorney, who guided us through the bureaucratic maze to achieve this goal with minimum problems and expense, and to all those who worked hard to make this possible.

This allows us now to proceed with finding a home for storage of our library, acquisition of major artifacts (including aircraft) and establishment of a museum to make these available for public viewing, research and education. A board of directors meeting will be held soon to establish both short and long term goals and the means to achieve them.

All members who have any ideas, suggestions or helpful hints for drawing up our future goals and plans and ideas on how to implement them, please contact your editor or one of the board members listed below as soon as possible:

- (1) **Norm Houle** (603) 664-5631
P.O. Box 563 • Barrington, NH 03825-0563
- (2) **Leo Boyle** (207) 854-9972
101 Monroe Avenue • Westbrook, ME 04092-4020
- (5) **Jim Chichetto** (207) 269-3281
R.R. 1, Box 1730 • Etna, ME 04434
- (17) **Clay Carkin** (207) 729-5976
RFD 2, Box 2321D • Brunswick, ME 04011
- (32) **Jack Denison** (603) 332-8774
265 Rochester Hill Road • Rochester, NH 03867
- (54) **John Miller** (207) 234-2777
93 North Road • Newburgh, ME 04444
- (70) **Scott Grant** (207) 774-4438
225 York Street, #A3 • Portland, ME 04102

Thanks

George Tinker of Bangor has donated four more large cartons of the papers of Lyndon "Fletch" Fletcher. These papers join six previous cartons that Goerge has donated and when catalogued will expand our knowledge of Maine aviation history from the '40s through the '70s. To date, only four cartons have been partially sorted.

Thanks also go to Carle Thurston of Westbrook for his contribution of 63 magazines consisting of *Aeroplane Monthly*, *Royal Air Force Yearbook*, *Wingspan*, *Air Combat* and *Air Classics*. Most of these were published in the 1970s. Carle also loaned us 14 copies of *21st Profiles*, which each have four profiles of mostly World War II aircraft. If anyone wants to borrow any of these, contact your editor.

Get Well

Member Jack Denison of Rochester, NH is up and about and his usual genial self, we hear, after undergoing major surgery on June 10. Jack was featured on Channel 11, New Hampshire Public Television on Monday, June 17 with a tour of his hangar barn and his home building activities (see photo on page 1). The interview was taped previously.

Passing of the Pioneers

Kenneth R. Orff

Epsom, NH — Kenneth R. Orff, 73, of River Road, formerly of Waldoboro, Maine, died Saturday (June 8, 1996) after a lengthy illness.

He was born in Waldoboro, a son of Ruel and Edith White Orff. He lived in Epsom, NH for the last 10 years and previously resided in Londonderry, NH. He attended Waldoboro High School and later graduated from the Spartan School of Aeronautics in Tulsa, OK.

Mr. Orff served in the Navy Air Corp during World War II.

He worked in the airline industry for many years, and retired in 1982 after 25 years at Eastern Airlines, working in Boston, MA and Miami, FL.

Blynn Clifford "Bud" McIntire

Perham and Dallas, TX — Blynn Clifford "Bud" McIntire, a native of Perham and longtime resident of Dallas, Texas, died Wednesday, May 15, 1996, after a heroic battle with acute leukemia. He was 61 years old.

Mr. McIntire received a bachelor of science degree from the University of Maine, where he was a member of Phi Mu Delta fraternity. He earned a masters degree from Southern Methodist University in Dallas.

After serving in the United States Army Artillery Aviation Division, Mr. McIntire joined Delta Airlines where he enjoyed a distinguished career spanning over 30 years.

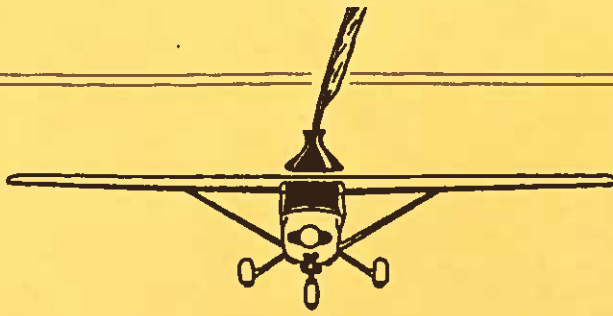
A retired international captain, Mr. McIntire served as Assistant Flight Operations Director and Director of Flight Operations (Chief Pilot) at DFW for almost 10 years. He also represented Delta as a national spokesperson.

Welcome New Members

- 151. **David E. Smith** (*Military Aviation '50s-'60s*)
P.O. Box 134
Carmel, ME 04419 (207) 848-5924
- 152. **Douglas B. Gould** (*Maine Aviation*)
235 Lincoln Street
Bangor, ME 04401-6016 (207) 942-1117
- 153. **Maine Folklife Center**
5773 S. Stevens, University of Maine
Orono, ME 04469-5773 (207) 581-1891

Change of Address:

- 127. **Joseph McCusker**
40 River Road, Apt. 17B
New York, NY 10044



From the Mailbag

In May, Dan Berson of Danbury, CT reached your editor by phone after seeing my ad in Atlantic Flyer for Maine aviation history information. After a long and enjoyable talk about his 1971 experiences learning to fly at Bangor, Dan sent me a great letter about his experiences there and the impression instructor Bob Bacon made upon him. I gave Bob and Don Strout copies of this letter and a Life Magazine article about the Trans-East Air Camp at the Bangor meeting. Excerpts from Dan's letter appear below:

Dear Mr. Boyle:

Our conversation last week brought back a lot of good memories. It seems like only yesterday when I was leaving Huntington, Long Island, NY in a world only a sixteen-year-old could imagine. Between having a beautiful girlfriend, a good home life, a boat to go fishing in, a job and another year of high school under my belt, what was left to do but fly.

What I thought was so unique about this camp was the fact that we had few members and truly combined a flight school and camp. It wasn't unusual to go from flying one day to visiting local historical sites the next. Of course, the fact that we were housed at Husson College rather than tents or cabins made living conditions unlike most summer camps.

If you do get to see Bob Bacon, please let him know how important he was at that time. Some of us were nearing draft

card age with a war still going on and having someone like Bob there for us spending critical hours with us at 5000 to 10,000 feet above Maine, made all the difference.

He may not realize it but the one time I'll never forget was on the taxiway. A Maine Air National Guard fighter had begun its roll and we were on a taxiway waiting for take off clearance. The jet hit its afterburner and never left the ground, but exploded seconds later at the end of the runway. I was in shock and it took Bob to get us back to Trans-East. That event could have caused most to shy away from flying altogether. Bob had me back in the sky within 48 hours. I carry no fear of flying and the reason isn't that I am fearless, it is because Bob knew how to take a sixteen-year-old kid back from seeing the explosion of an aircraft to being back in the cockpit very quickly. There was no call for therapy in those days. It took a dedicated flight instructor to get me right back behind the controls.

The most funny event, as I look back now, was on a landing. Bob told me to land on the numbers and I did more than that, I hit my back landing gear on the arrest cable at the foot of the runway. Yes, we bounced nice and high and landed just as quickly with a thud. I was scared that I almost crashed the plane and that Bob was going to use me as a human brake, but except for a long talk, it was a learning experience.

Those times in Maine meant a lot to me. Flying up there spoiled me, as we flew over timber land, saw wild life that Long Island boys never got to see otherwise. Doing emergency practice landings in small landing strips that were hidden in the woods and having lunch next to the plane remains a vivid memory to this day.

Maybe it was being spoiled in Maine that caused me to drop flying since after returning to Long Island, flying there became a stress test in watching every which way to avoid planes coming at you. No, Long Island flying wasn't fun. What Maine meant to me was that flying was fun.



Dan Berson, 16, enjoys his first moments of flight at the Trans-East Air Camp in Bangor.

They Fly the Trainers and Handle the Jets

Reprinted from Life Magazine, August 27, 1971

Camp Solo is a summer school for young aviation freaks, a new twist in vacation camps that offers the perfect adventure for children who grow up watching men walk on the moon. Located near Maine's Bangor International Airport, the camp provides an eight-week, \$1,250 flight course for 26 boys ranging in age from 11 to 17. In addition to flying lessons, the kids, most of whom have been wistfully hanging around airports for years, get classroom instruction in aerodynamics, meteorology and navigation. They also get to work at Bangor, where they learn the practical aspects of the flying business, from flight control to baggage-handling. The camp was founded this year by 25-year-old Mark Wolgin, in partnership with Trans-East Air, Inc., which administers Bangor Airport.



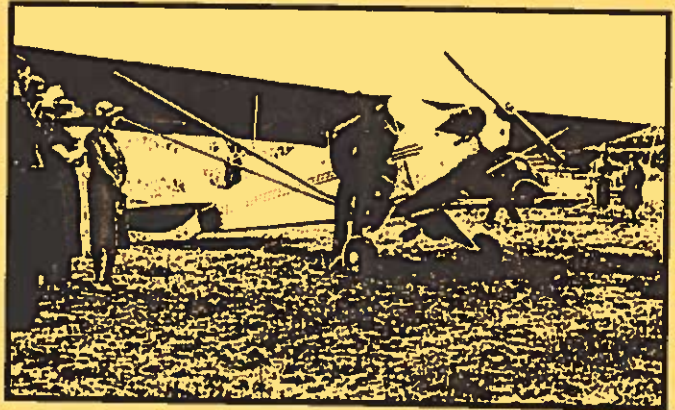
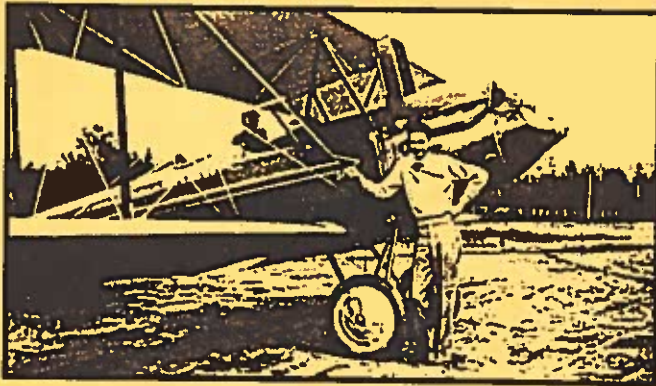
Scott Grant shows off for the MAHS at the Hampton, NH Fly Market on May 18, 1996.

*And a good time was had by all . . .
at the Hampton Fly Market*



Michael Farrey's DC-3 in Northeast Airline colors at the Hampton Air Field Fly Market.

*Scenes from the Flying Life
of Douglas B. Gould*



New member Douglas B. Gould of Bangor sent us these pictures of himself and the first page of his first log book. He soloed in the OX-5 powered Challenger Biplane 5623 in only three hours, and his first plane was the J-2 Cub. Doug ended his flying days in the MEANG McDonnell F-101 Voodoos.

DATE OF FLIGHT	AIRCRAFT AND ENGINE USED ON THESE FLIGHTS			DURATION OF FLIGHT HRS. MIN.	STATE POINTS BETWEEN WHICH FLIGHTS WERE MADE, OR IF LOCAL FLIGHTS, STATE NATURE OF SUCH FLIGHTS.		
	MAKE OR TYPE OF AIRCRAFT	IDENTIFICATION OR LICENSE NO.	MAKE OR TYPE OF ENGINE		FROM	TO	REMARKS
Aug 29, 1986	Challenger Biplane	5623	OX-5	3	Farmington	Front porch and return	OX-5
" "	"	"	"	30	Local	for	practice
" 30 "	"	"	"	15	"	"	"
Sept 2	"	"	"	15	"	"	"
" 6	"	"	"	15	"	"	"
" 10	"	"	"	15	"	"	"
" 10	"	"	"	15	"	"	"
" 22	"	"	"	15	"	"	"
TOTAL TIME TO BE CARRIED FORWARD				2			

I CERTIFY THE ABOVE FLIGHTS WERE MADE *Douglas Gould*
 ATTESTED BY *Heena Remington* *Inspector*

Upcoming MAHS Meetings and Calendar of Events

July 6-7	10 a.m.	Military Air Show, Owls Head Transportation Museum
July 14	10 a.m.	'50s and '60s Auto and Air Show, Owls Head Transportation Museum
July 19-21	10 a.m.	Brunswick Naval Air Station Air Show
July 27-28	10 a.m.	Truck/Tractor and Air Show, Owls Head Transportation Museum
August 1-7		Oshkosh '96 EAA Fly-In and Convention, Wisconsin (414-426-4800)
August 10-11		Wings of History Air Expo, Quonset Air Museum, RI (401-245-4984)
August 11	9 a.m.-2 p.m.	Open House Air Show, Maine Air National Guard MAINEiacs, Bangor Airport
August 11	10 a.m.	Transportation Spectacular and Aerobatic Air Show, Owls Head Transportation Museum
September 6-8		International Seaplane Fly-In, Greenville, ME
September 14	9 a.m.	Miller Field, Newburgh, Maine
September 15	10 a.m.	Annual Transportation Flea Market, Owls Head Transportation Museum
October 6	10 a.m.	Foreign Auto and Air Show, Owls Head Transportation Museum
October 12	9 a.m.	Biddeford Municipal Airport
October 18-20		Northeast Aero Historians Meeting, Holiday Inn, Philadelphia
October 27	10 a.m.	Great Fall Auction
November 9	9 a.m.	Open
December 14	9 a.m.	Conference Room, Portland International Jetport Terminal

Hikes to be announced will include Big Spruce Mountain (*White Bird*), F-101 crash site, Elephant Mountain (B-52) and others.

The meeting sites can be flexible. We are looking for suggestions on locations for many of these meetings. Call Leo or Jim if you can help. The same goes for suggestions on the weekend hikes — let us know. We are also looking for guest speakers, slide shows, etc. Scott Grant has volunteered to handle the scheduling of our meetings and arranging for speakers and slide shows., etc. Please contact him at 207-774-4438 (207-761-9288 business) or 225 York Street, #3, Portland, ME 04102 if you have any ideas or can be of help.

MAINE FOLKLIFE CENTER

A repository of tape recordings, transcriptions and photographs founded in 1958, special collections include folk songs and traditions of the Northeast. Basic Membership: \$25

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'96-'97 *Flying Down East* Calendar

16 Months: Sept. '96-Dec. '97

20 great exciting old photographs of planes and people in Maine *plus* important history-making events listed.

Only \$9.95 (plus \$2.05 postage).
ME residents add .60 sales tax.

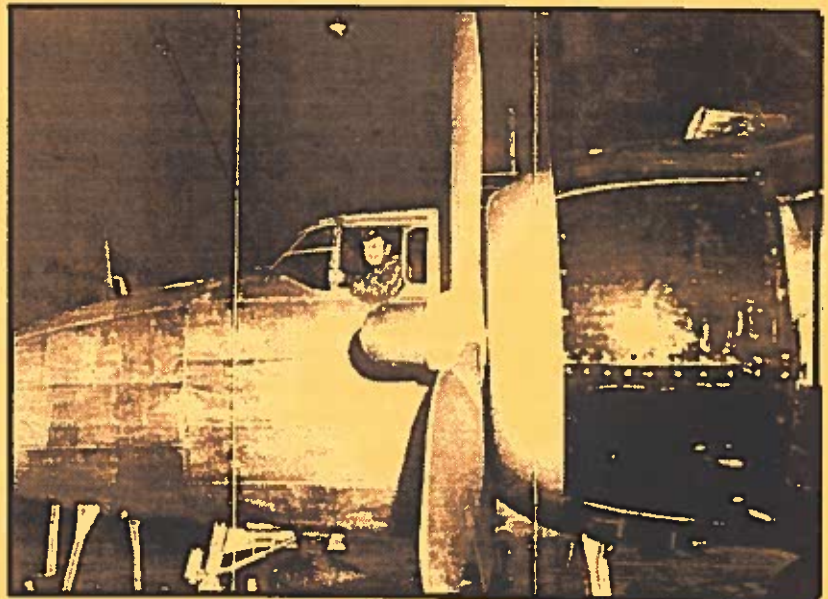
Available in bookstores or by mail:

Flying Down East
101 Monroe Avenue
Westbrook, Maine 04092-4020

Mystery Photo of the Month

This photo was from a negative found in a file cabinet at Loring AFB in Limestone in October 1972. It was prior to that date and we need to know who the smiling colonel was and the type of aircraft.

Submitted by Scott Grant. Winner will receive a MAHS T-shirt.



Last Month's Answer: The mystery photo plane last month was the one and only Paspod Skylark, once owned by member Walt Humphrey of South Harpswell. At 7:45 a.m. on June 6, Dick Jackson of Rochester, NH was on the phone with the correct answer and wins a MAHS T-shirt. Congratulations, Dick!

Sample Issues
\$4.00 each



1 year subscription \$25
Overseas \$30

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- news of current publications
- historical research
- workshop notes
- information on paint/color
- aeroplanes, engines, parts for sale
- your wants and disposals

Sole distributors for P3V, a computer program to generate a 3-view from a photograph.

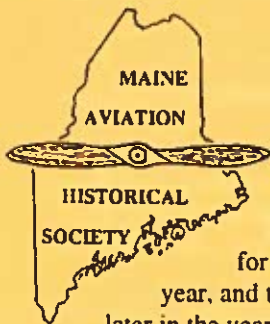
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WE'LL HELP GET YOUR WORD OUT!

Ad space is now available in the *Dirigo Flyer*. Rates are \$5.00 for three issues per column inch, or \$18.00 per year. A full page (2 columns, 8 inches) is \$80.00 for three issues. Call Leo Boyle at 207-854-9972 for annual rates.



Dues will be for the calendar year, and those joining later in the year will receive all newsletters retroactive to January of that year. All renewal of dues shall be due on January 1st.

Annual membership includes *12 monthly newsletters!* Mail payment to: **MAHS**
101 Monroe Avenue, Westbrook, ME 04092-4020

JOIN THE MAINE AVIATION HISTORICAL SOCIETY TODAY AND HELP ENSURE OUR LEGACY FOR TOMORROW

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Special Interests _____ Phone _____

Membership	Dues	Benefits
Regular	\$20 annual	Newsletter
Corporate	\$50 annual	Newsletter, Calendar
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Lifetime	\$500	Newsletter, Calendar, Journal, Lifetime Membership No. (2 annual \$250 payments)

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101 Monroe Avenue
Westbrook, ME 04092-4020

Come Join Us!

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Military Air Show
Owls Head Trans. Museum

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Great State O' Maine Air Show
BNAS, Brunswick