



# DIRIGO FLYER

Vol. IV, No. 8 August 1996

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

## A Bright Tomorrow for MAHS

The time has come, now that we are a 501(c)3 non-profit corporation, to look to our future. The two items that are now most urgent are to look for a home and to be in a position to acquire aircraft significant to Maine's aviation history.

The Board of Directors is looking to appoint, in the early fall, two committees to plan and expedite these goals. One committee will be known as the Museum Committee. This group will be charged with finding a home for MAHS to house our offices, our library, our collection of artifacts. Factors that are important are the location, not only for members but for future accessibility for the public, room for growth and the display of aircraft, and cooperation of the state and local airport and municipal offices.

The Acquisitions Committee will be charged with looking into the acquisition of significant Maine-related aircraft, whether by donation, gift, grant or government surplus or loan, and any other aviation-related material.

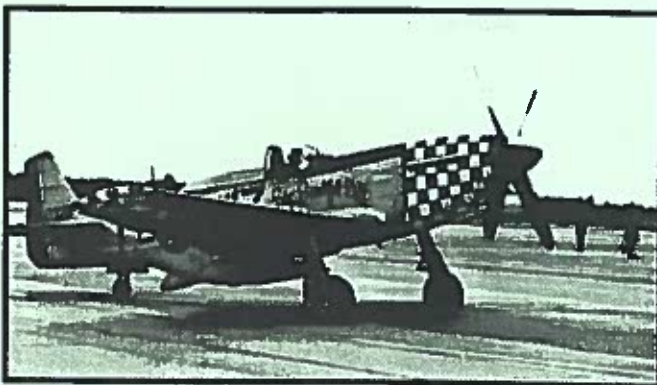
We are asking for volunteer applicants. We are especially looking for members who have had experience in the acquisition, use and/or ownership of significant and different aircraft. We are especially interested in those who have had museum or collection experience, either as staff or volunteer.

Time and work will be essential on both of these committees and we expect those with the above experience to be our mentors and guides, and to work compatibly together in the best

interests of MAHS.

We encourage any and all members who are interested to communicate their desire and their experience to any member of the Board of Directors or to Jim Chichetto, President, RR 1, Box 1730, Etna, ME 04434 (207) 269-3281 or to Leo Boyle, Secretary, 101 Monroe Avenue, Westbrook, ME 04092-4020 (207) 854-9972.

As these committees move forward, there will be many needs for volunteers for everything imaginable: carpenters, painters, sign makers, experienced mechanics — a fun future can be yours so plan now to be a part of an exciting and growing MAHS future.



North American P-51D-NA Mustang 472218 "Big Beautiful Doll" flown by Yeager at Bangor.  
Photos by John Miller



Retired General Chuck Yeager on the right talks with MAHS Vice President Clay Carlin at the Maine ANG Open House at Dow Field, Bangor August 11th. Clay's story will appear in next month's *Dirigo Flyer*.

## Eagle Mountain F-101B Hike

by Jim Chichetto

On the night of July 16, 1970, an F-101B of the 119th Fighter Group, Hector Field, S.D. crashed deep in the Maine woods after it ran out of fuel. The pilot, Captain Richard Arman, received minor injuries as he ejected from the aircraft. His RIO, Major George E. Brett, ejected safely with no injuries. Both men were later picked up and flew home on the 17th.

The aircraft was flying a cross country training mission when the accident occurred. They arrived overhead at Bangor after dark. The clouds were low, a light rain was falling and ground fog was dense. The pilot made three landing approaches to the runway at BIA. He lined up on the golf course, and on I-395, but realized his error in time and pulled up. After his third attempt he was rattled and running low on fuel. The ground controllers gave him a vector toward Amherst and told him to eject after he was safely away from the city. Once the aircraft cleared the settled area, the pilot blew the canopy and both crewmen ejected. The aircraft continued for some distance before crashing near Alligator Lake after the fuel was exhausted.

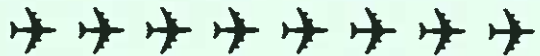
This year MAHS members have hiked to the F-101B site at Kench Hill/Bald Mountain twice and the F-101B site on Mt. Abraham near Kingfield. This crash site looked like an easy ride on good dirt roads. If there was anything left, it would be a fairly easy hike to reach it, with driveable access to within a quarter mile. We decided to go looking for this Voodoo, the third of only four Voodoos which crashed in the Maine woods. (At least four F-101Bs had accidents at Dow/BIA: three while landing, one during take-off; one other F-101B was lost over the Atlantic off MDI.)

On August 18th, members and friends of the MAHS took a ride down the Stud Mill Road toward Grand Lake Stream. The destination was the crash site of the F-101B near Eagle Mountain, which is on the opposite side of the road from Alligator

Lake. Since the aircraft had gone down, a logging operation has been carried out. A new road now goes through the crash site area and most of the aircraft was said to have been cleaned up. During the Great State O' Maine Airshow and the Maine ANG Open House, people had pointed out the crash site to MAHS members. We followed the maps to the site and began to search the described area.

Breaking up into three groups, we searched both sides of the roadway for over one half mile in either direction. It was slow going due to cut brush, stumps and berry bushes. Bill Townsend used his metal detector but found only cans, ammo brass and a hunting knife. After about an hour and a half of pushing through the undergrowth, it was decided that a fall search after the leaves were gone might be better. This site will be visited again, hopefully with better results at a later date.

MAHS members making the hike were John Miller, Maria Baeza, Brent Harper, Jim and James Chichetto, Bill Townsend and his guest Greg Coffey of New York. We didn't find the aircraft, but we had a good outing.



### CATCH THE MAHS EXCITEMENT!

Need help? Have ideas? Want to get involved?

#### Maine Aviation Historical Society

101 Monroe Avenue  
Westbrook, ME 04092-4020  
or call (207) 854-9972

If you are not yet a member, join today  
and help preserve Maine's aviation heritage.

Enjoy the *Dirigo Flyer!*



F-117A Stealth Fighter at the Maine ANG Open House in Bangor on August 11, 1996. (John Miller Photo)

### ★ SUPPORT THE MECAA ★

MECAA, Maine Education Council for Aviation and Aerospace, is a two-year-old non-profit organization whose mission is to promote aviation education to the youth of Maine. We also provide numerous services and resources to teachers in all schools and organizations. One of our many projects is ACE Camp. ACE (Aviation Career Education) is an FAA-sponsored camp for students ages 13-17. Last year, ACE Camp was held at the Brunswick NAS and was very successful. We are proud to announce the Air National Guard's 101st Air Refueling Wing at Bangor will sponsor ACE Camp '96. For more information on MECAA or ACE Camps, contact Alice Gommoll (207-878-2931) or Malcolm Brydon (207-947-3349). Dues are only \$10.00 annually. MECAA, P.O. Box 66857, Falmouth, Maine 04105.



## Walter Soplata's Treasure Chest

As seen recently by member Cliff Haines of Augusta

by Cliff Haines

OK, I know Ohio's a little west of Maine, but I am sure some of the birds in Walter Soplata's collection must have been in Maine at one time or another. You have to see this collection to believe it. I first met Mr. Soplata at a model airplane show in Cleveland in the 1960s. He showed me pictures of airplanes he had collected up to that time and he was hoping to start a museum.

Now, 30 years later, he is still trying, working with limited funds, lack of space, and an encroaching civilization that wants him out. Walter Soplata has been buying aircraft at scrap prices to hold them for posterity. The government, to make sure they won't fly again, cuts them up into pieces with a chainsaw. At least Walter has most of the pieces and he has saved them from the smelter.

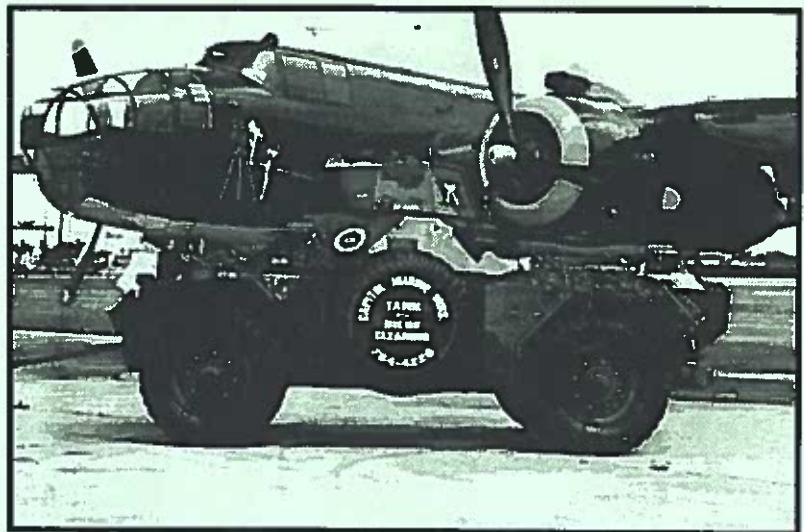
I visited this collection in Newbury, Ohio last May on a

miserable cold rainy day. I was impressed by what he had in the space available. The first thing I saw on coming over a hill on a rutted, pot-holed dirt road was a Texan in his front yard. In the back are parts of the rest of his collection.

After talking my way in, I saw a P-2H, a Skyraider, two Corsairs, one in Navy blue and the other Cook Celand's blue and white racer from the 1947 Cleveland Air Races. A Globemaster sits next to the woods, and in the middle of this jumble are an F-80, F-84E, RF-84F, and an F-86D is peeking around the corner of a shed. It's hard to recognize everything, but a B-36 is very evident. He also has an XP-82 Twin Mustang, but it is on loan to a display at a nearby airport. A Vought Cutlass is hiding among the trees, but its size makes it hard not to see.

A lot of people criticize this man for his collection, but he is doing the best he can with his limited funds, and he refuses donations.

*Scrapbook  
Souvenirs:  
From Florida  
to Bangor*



Member Bill Wincapaw of Danie, FL sent this photo of his British Ferret MK 2/3 1959 armoured scout car parked in front of a B-25 at the Fort Lauderdale Airport.



Speaking of Fort Lauderdale, its airport was known as Fogg Field years ago. This is the Fogg monument in Mt. Hope Cemetery in Bangor where aviator Merle L. Fogg (1898-1925) is buried.

## Upcoming

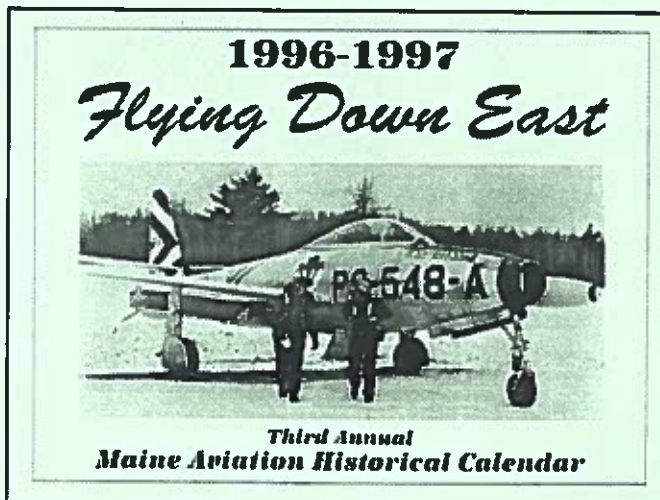
Be sure to visit us at the Greenville, Maine International Seaplane Fly-In September 7 & 8. This year the weather has to be better and a great time is always had by all.

The next Saturday, September 14, we'll be at John Miller's Airfield, 93 North Road in Newburgh, Maine. See John's old-fashioned grass strip for a feel of fun flying, and view John's great collection of aviation memorabilia. We'll be there about 9 a.m., and an important discussion of our future direction will be on the agenda. Exit 43 off I-95, left on 69, North Road is the second right.

A full report of the Bangor, Maine ANG Open House, including Clay Carkin's interview with Chuck Yeager, will appear in next month's *Dirigo Flyer*, plus another Mystery Photo submitted by Larry Colson of Bernard.

## Welcome New Members

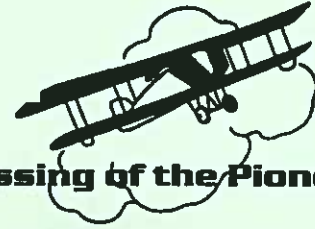
160. **Capt. Doug Russell** (*Aviation*)  
9227 Geese Circle  
Eagle River, Alaska 99577
161. **Rich Frangella** (*Flying Lobster*)  
Box 1982  
Monterey, CA 93942-1982 (408) 373-8938



## '96-'97 Flying Down East Calendar

The Calendar is now out and first response has been excellent. Out-of-state mail orders are way beyond expectations, and we are gradually getting them out to the bookstores as time permits. If sales continue, there is a possibility we may run out, so order your copies now for yourself and for gifts to be sure.

Don't forget you can begin using it in September and it runs until December 1997 — see the ad elsewhere in this issue.



## Passing of the Pioneers

### Roger Fanning Haley

Roger Fanning Haley, a retired U.S. Air Force Colonel, died recently in San Francisco, CA. Mr. Haley was born and brought up in Portland, ME. In World War II, he served with distinction with the Flying Tigers.

...

### Stuart E. Hayes

Stuart E. Hayes, a native of Dover-Foxcroft, died in Sebec Lake on July 11, 1996. Mr. Hayes went on active duty with the U.S. Army Air Corps in 1943. After completing his flight training, he served with the 412th Fighter Squadron, 373rd Fighter Group of the 9th Air Force in Europe. He was a life member of the P-47 Thunderbolt Fighter Pilots Association.

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### Alfred M. Joy

Alfred M. Joy, a native of Bangor, died in Veazie on July 11, 1996. He served in the U.S. Navy and U.S. Air Force, and retired in 1982 as a Master Sergeant in the Maine Air National Guard.

...

### Russell W. York

Russell W. York, a Bangor native who attended school in Millinocket, died recently in Calais. He served in the U.S. Army in World War II and retired in 1980 as a Lt. Colonel in the U.S. Air Force Reserve.

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Don't forget, they make great gifts! All profits help MAHS.



## Upcoming MAHS Meetings and Calendar of Events

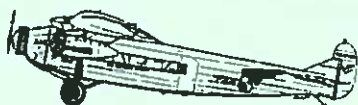
September 6-8 .....	International Seaplane Fly-In, Greenville, ME
September 14 .....	9 a.m. .... Miller Field, Newburgh, Maine
September 15 .....	10 a.m. .... Annual Transportation Flea Market, Owls Head Transportation Museum
October 6 .....	10 a.m. .... Foreign Auto and Air Show, Owls Head Transportation 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.

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### Mystery Photo of the Month

This aircraft with a Canadian registration was a one-of-a-kind parasol mail-plane powered by a Gipsy engine. It was a visitor at the Arbo's Prairie Airport in Brownville, ME in 1932. Be the first with a correct answer and win an MAHS T-shirt.



**Mystery Photo Answers** — The photo of the Boeing B-17G-BO "5 Grand" in the July issue of the *Dirigo Flyer* brought a number of good replies. This B-17G, the 5000th Flying Fortress built by Boeing, was 43-37716 and was assigned to the 96th Bomb Group of the 8th Air Force in Europe where it was known as "Easter Egg." Returned to the States, it was relegated to Kingman, Arizona where it was chopped up in 1947. Ed Goldman of Portland was first with the correct answer and wins the T-shirt.

Replies to the **June Mystery Photo** keep coming in. Most people have correctly identified it as a B-25 family from North American. No one has identified the colonel in the cockpit. Since the photo was taken at Loring AFB, probably in the early 1950s, it is probably an AT-24D/TB-25J trainer conversion (or AK, L, M or N), some of which were in service until 1959. Members Bill Wincapaw (FL) and Ed Maliar (NY) also sent great information on the above.

Sample Issues  
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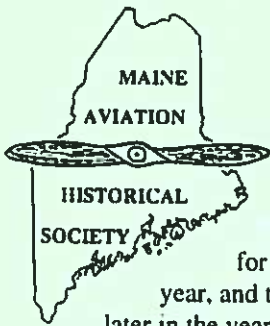
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### WE'LL HELP GET YOUR WORD OUT!

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**  
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**Greenville**  
**September 14**  
**John Miller's Airfield**  
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