



# DIRIGO FLYER

Vol. VI, No. 3 March 1998

Newsletter of the Maine Aviation Historical Society • P.O. Box 2641, Bangor, Maine 04402 • 207-854-9972



## TIME TO VOTE!

Ballots are enclosed for the election of officers for 1998. Please vote for one each of the four officers, and write-in votes are welcome. The by-laws have been revised to increase the Board of Directors to fifteen, which includes the four officers. Please vote for nine of the nominees which will increase the Board to thirteen members. This allows for the future nomination of two more members. Ballots must be returned by March 14, 1998 or be brought to the March meeting, at this time the results will be announced. Your vote is important, so vote today!



## RED DOT

If there is a red dot next to your name on the mailing label of this issue of *Dirigo Flyer*, it means we have not received your 1998 dues. Please remit by April 1, 1998 to assure your continuing to receiving the *Dirigo Flyer*. You will not receive another issue if not paid by then. We need your support to continue the newsletter, the hikes, activities and programs, and pursue our Maine Air Museum goal. If there has been some error, please advise right away. We look forward to your continue participation in the exciting future of the Maine Aviation Historical Society.

## Notes from a Productive February Meeting

The February meeting of the MAHS was held February 14, 1998 at the American Legion Hall in Bangor. About twenty-five members attended and a spirited and open meeting resulted. After being snowed out twice in January, it was great to see such great interest. The results were all positive and we are once again proceeding full steam ahead. With most of the money raised internally for the fundraising feasibility study, we are proceeding ahead with this phase. Ed Armstrong was appraising the three fundraisers we interviewed of our choice and our decision. We hope to have more to report on this decision at the March meeting and a better idea of what we have to do to aid in this project.

A meeting was arranged of the Museum Committee. At that meeting, we drew up our counter proposal for the lease with the City of Bangor. This has been presented to them and they will get back to us. We do not anticipate any major problems in bringing this matter to a successful conclusion.

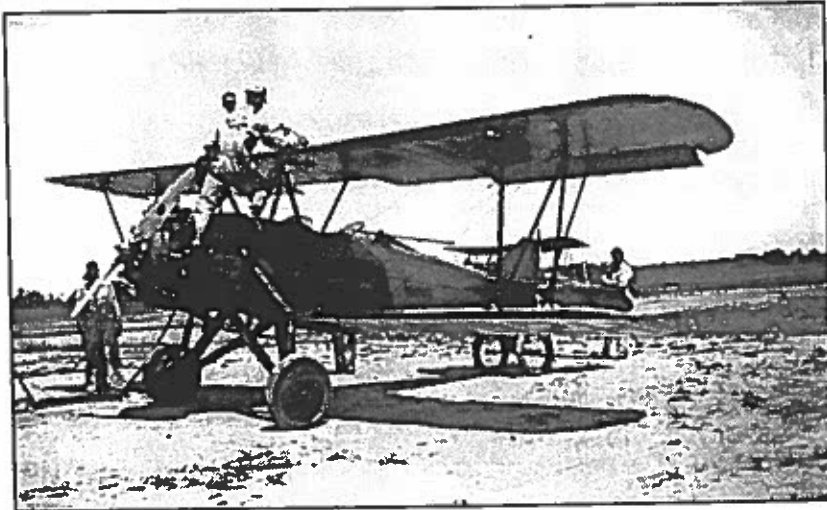
The treasurer reported a balance of \$2,421.00 in the checking account with one outstanding bill of \$280 for legal services related to the lease and revision of the size of the Board of Directors. Over \$9,000.00 had been raised for the feasibility study and was invested in a money market fund.

After some discussion regarding the duties of the various officers, Scott Grant was nominated as Vice President and George Tinker was nominated as Treasurer, with Leo Boyle continuing as Secretary. The members and the chairmen of the committees were reviewed and the nominees and the chairmen agreed upon their increased responsibilities. With this additional help, Jim Chichetto, who wished to be relieved of his duties, agreed to serve as President for another year, and was so nominated. Candidates for our enlarged Board of Directors were reviewed. Do not forget to vote as soon as possible for your new officers and Board of Directors members. The long discussion of the above matters ran until noon and the meeting was adjourned. We regret that we did not have time for Rick Alexander's slide show.

Bill Townsend is working on a web page and we hope to be on the Internet later this month. Ed Armstrong has procured a post office box in Bangor and this will be the official MAHS address. The new address is P.O. Box 2641, Bangor, Maine 04402. Please continue to use the 101 Monroe Avenue, Westbrook, Maine 04092-4020 address for renewals, new members, payment of dues and donations to the Museum Fund

"Meeting," continued on page 4

# More from Scarborough, Maine



Travel Air B-4000, NC-892H.



Monocoupe 70 and Travel Air B-4000, NC-6262 of Skyways, Inc. of Boston. Flown by Olcott Payson. Office and waiting room in the background.



Travel Air 2000 C-6138 with Curtiss OX-5 engine.

by Lawrence Storey  
via Rodney Laughton



The office and waiting room at the new Portland Airport in Scarborough, Maine about 1930.



Savoia-Marchetti S-56 Amphibian NC-380-N with 100 hp Kinner K-5 engine.



Three Curtiss F8C-5 (O2C-1) Helldivers with 450 hp Pratt & Whitney engines.

## John Edward Van Horn Federal Aviation Agency Official

*We are saddened to report the recent loss of John Van Horn, FAA official who was well-known in Maine aviation circles.*

John Edward Van Horn, 78, of Running Springs Road died Tuesday at a Portland nursing home after a short battle with cancer.

He was born at Bowdoin, son of James and Helen Kelly Van Horn, and attended Charleston schools.

Mr. Van Horn went on to study aviation in the Navy while serving during World War II. He worked for the federal government for many years and eventually became chief of the Federal Aviation Agency, until he retired in 1978 and moved to Gorham.

"Meeting," *continued from page 1*

for the time being during this transition period. Ed is printing up new stationery and envelopes with the new address.

We have received a new lead on the possible location of the "White Bird" from a gentleman in Lubec, Maine. This is being checked out and we will keep you informed. We hope to be able to pinpoint this location and narrow down the area for a possible search this spring. Bill Nungesser is leaving for France on March 13 for three weeks, and he and Laure Leveziel hope to talk with the right people in France to gain more support from the French for our future searches.

### March and April Meetings

The March meeting will be held at the American Legion Hall in Bangor on Saturday, March 14 at 9:00 a.m. The officers and committee heads will meet there at 8:30 a.m. and review progress made in the last month. At 9:00 a.m., the progress will be reported to the general membership and after a short break, we plan to get our program started by 9:30 a.m. This will be the agenda for future meetings as well. We hope to have Ms. Deschaine from Deschaine Associates give us a short presentation of the feasibility study which she will conduct for us. She will also outline what we have to do and how we can work with her to assure its success. Then, at last, Rick Alexander will present his slide show.

The April meeting probably will be held at the Portland Jetport Conference Room. We also plan to hold one or two meetings in Houlton with exciting programs.

# Interceptor ts

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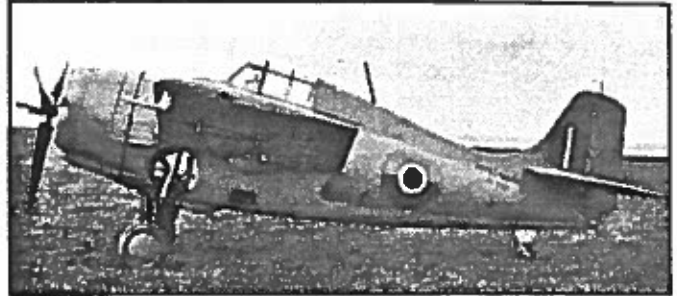
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## Notes from the Past

Submitted by Scott Grant



A Grumman Wildcat IV similar to the one flown by Sub-Lieutenant Robey when he crashed in North Windham on January 26, 1944.

*Portland Evening Express, January 27, 1944, page 12*  
**British Pilot Dies in Flames as Training Place Crashes**

North Windham (Special) — A British pilot trapped in the cockpit of his flaming Grumman Wildcat IV (FN110) after it crashed in the woods here late Wednesday afternoon was burned to death.

The single-motored ship from 738 Squadron reported by the Navy officials at the Brunswick Naval Air Station as on a routine training flight from the Naval Air Station at Lewiston-Auburn, crashed near Sebago Lake Outlet, two miles in from the Outlet Road, North Windham. Officials said name of the pilot was being withheld pending notification of next of kin. North Windham firemen, wading through knee-deep snow from Outlet Bridge across the head gates of the S.D. Warren Paper Company dam and through the woods on the east shore of the Outlet, found the pilot dead and the plane still blazing.

Town residents reported the plane, trailing smoke, circled the vicinity several times as the pilot apparently sought an emergency landing field. The plane apparently hurtled down between the trees, one wing plowing a long furrow in the snow before it upended and crashed back into the snow. It came to rest right side up with its fuselage nearly broken in two, the tail wedged into a tree and the wings badly crushed.

Bertrand Morrill of Outlet Road notified firemen of the crash and fire. A salvage crew from the air base at Brunswick was sent to the crash immediately.

*Portland Evening Express, February 1, 1944, page 7*  
**Military Honors for Plane Victim**

Kittery (Special) — Full military honors were accorded Sylvester K. Robey, Sub-Lieutenant, RAF, who was burned to death in a plane crash at North Windham last Wednesday, at funeral services at the Navy yard here Monday afternoon.

Lt. Lloyd F. Shepard, USNR, Chaplain Corps, conducted the services and Rear Admiral Thomas Withers, USN, Yard Commandant, headed the office group in attendance. There was a Marine guard of honor and volley by a Marine detachment followed by Taps.

Earl Stimpert, William Cobb, Albert Ethols, Rex Pettigrow, Joseph Parks, Elmer Feitter, British sailors stationed at the Brunswick Naval Air Station from which Lt. Robey was flying, were bearers. Burial was in the Navy Yard cemetery.


## Upcoming MAHS Meetings and Calendar of Events

- March 14 ..... 9 a.m. .... MAHS Meeting, American Legion Hall, Bangor.  
 April 11 ..... 9 a.m. .... MAHS Meeting, Conference Room, Portland International Jetport.  
 April 19-25 ..... All Day ..... Sun 'n Fun, Lakeland, FL.  
 May 9 ..... 9 a.m. .... MAHS Meeting, TBA.  
 May 16 ..... All Day ..... 4th Annual Maine SPA Safety Seminar, Telford Aviation, Waterville, 207-622-7332.  
 May 23-24 ..... All Day ..... Aviation Flea Market, Hampton Airport, Hampton, NH.  
 May 31 ..... 10 a.m. .... Model Show, WWI and Classic Aircraft Exhibition, Owls Head Transportation Museum.  
 June 13 ..... 9 a.m. .... MAHS Meeting, TBA.  
 June 14 ..... 10 a.m. .... Ford and Chevy Show, Owls Head Transportation Museum.  
 June 27-28 ..... 10 a.m. .... Pre-1940s Car Show, Owls Head Transportation Museum.  
 July 11 ..... 9 a.m. .... MAHS Meeting, TBA.  
 July 12 ..... 10 a.m. .... 1950s-1960s Car Show, Owls Head Transportation Museum.  
 July 25-26 ..... 10 a.m. .... Antique Truck Meet, Owls Head Transportation Museum.  
 July 29-Aug. 4 ..... All Day ..... EAA Oshkosh Fly-In, Oshkosh, WI, 301-695-2083.  
 August 2 ..... All Day ..... Maine Air National Guard Open House, Bangor International Airport.  
 August 8 ..... 10 a.m. .... MAHS Meeting, TBA.  
 August 8-9 ..... 10 a.m. .... Annual Transportation Spectacular Aerobatic Show, Owls Head Transportation Museum.  
 August 22 ..... 10 a.m. .... 21st Annual New England Auto Auction, Owls Head Transportation Museum.  
 September 6 ..... 10 a.m. .... Antique Motorcycle Festival, Owls Head Transportation Museum.  
 September 11-13 ..... All Day ..... 25th International Seaplane Fly-In, Greenville, ME, 207-695-2821.  
 September 12 ..... 10 a.m. .... MAHS Meeting, TBA.  
 September 20 ..... 10 a.m. .... Convertible Meet, Owls Head Transportation Museum.  
 October 4 ..... 10 a.m. .... Foreign Car Oktoberfest, Owls Head Transportation Museum.  
 October 10 ..... 9 a.m. .... MAHS Meeting, TBA.  
 October 25 ..... 10 a.m. .... Great Fall Auction, Owls Head Transportation Museum.  
 November 14 ..... 9 a.m. .... MAHS Meeting, TBA.  
 December 12 ..... 9 a.m. .... MAHS Meeting, TBA.

Meeting sites are flexible. We are always looking for suggestions on locations, guest speakers, slide shows, etc. Call Scott Grant at 207-775-3404 if you have any ideas or can be of help. In 1998 we will have more hikes to aircraft wrecks, scheduled between meetings, and the "White Bird" search will resume upon the arrival of spring.

### Welcome, New Members!

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| <p>238. <b>Steve Biggers</b><br/>P.O. Box 231<br/>Plain, WI 53577</p> <p>239. <b>Eveleigh E. Barker</b> (<i>Ret. EAL &amp; MENG</i>)<br/>143 Post Road<br/>No. Hampton, NH 03862</p> <p>240. <b>Eric J. Elias</b> (<i>Air Shows</i>)<br/>476 St. John St., Apt. 2<br/>Portland, ME 04102      207-879-4387</p> | <p>241. <b>Jean Hardy</b> (<i>Littlebrook Air Park</i>)<br/>P.O. Box 79<br/>Eliot, ME 03903      207-439-4052</p> <p>242. <b>Lawrence E. Nickerson</b> (<i>Aviation Art</i>)<br/>2107 Carmel Road North<br/>Newburgh, ME 04444      207-234-7125</p> <p>243. <b>Dan Bilodeau</b> (<i>Luscombes</i>)<br/>c/o Air 98, P.O. Box 398<br/>Bryant Pond, ME 04219</p> |
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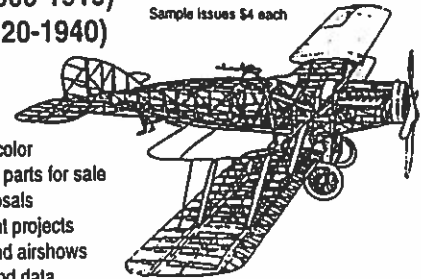
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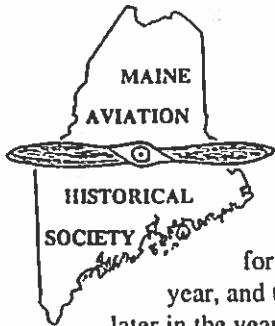


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Dues will be for the calendar year, and those joining later in the year will receive all newsletters retroactive to January of that year. All renewal of dues shall be due on January 1st.

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

Membership	Dues	Benefits
Regular	\$20 annual	Newsletter, Patch, Museum Admission
Family	\$30 annual	Newsletter, Patch, Museum Admission
Corporate	\$50 annual	Newsletter, Patch, Museum Admission
Supporting	\$100 annual	Newsletter, Patch, Museum Admission, 4 Free Passes
Lifetime	\$500*	Newsletter, Patch, Lifetime Membership Number, Museum Admission, 10 Free Passes
* (2 annual \$250 payments)		

Maine Aviation Historical Society  
P.O. Box 2641  
Bangor, ME 04402

**COME JOIN US!**  
Saturday, March 14, 1998  
9 a.m.  
American Legion Hall  
Bangor, Maine