

CLIFF BALL WING NEWLETTER

OCTOBER 2011 REUNION ISSUE



Candid Photos of the 56th Reunion

Issue 4 Oct 15, 2011

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Dennis Yerkey, Secretary
Web Page

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Darla Mroski
Frank B Long
Harry Bochter
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Jim Herron
Jim Kirk

Clifford Ball Wing
OX5 Aviation Pioneers
PO Box 18561
Pittsburgh, Pa 15236-0561



RUNION AT THE MUSEUM—HAMMONDSPORT, NY

There was crowd anticipation, silence, then a whirring sound followed by several short popping noises followed by the bellow of a ninety horse powered engine speaking through short exhaust stacks. This was accompanied by the smooth, consistent roar of the whirling propeller. There seemed to be a crowd exhale of exhilaration as the OX5 engine performed like a present day, high technology machine. The running of the Curtiss OX5 engine was one of the highlights of the 56th Annual Reunion held at the Curtiss Museum, Hammondsport, N.Y. The Curtiss OX5 engine was used in training airplanes during World War I. In the postwar period, its availability in quantity at low war surplus prices led to its adoption by many US manufacturers for their two- and three-place aircraft. The Laird Swallow was probably the first of these designs. There were more than twenty airplanes powered by the OX5 engine. Among them were the Curtiss Robin, Travel Air 2000, Waco 9 and 10, American Eagle, Alexander Eaglerock, Pitcairn PA-4, and others.

The crowd of approximately sixty people watched the OX5 running exhibition outside of the facility of the Curtis Museum located in the rural area between Bath and Hammondsport, N.Y. The museum is a landmark of aviation history and has a magnificent collection of historical aircraft. Its restoration shop, under the supervision of Wing President Norman Brush, overhauls and rebuilds airplanes and engines.

A second highlight was the bus trip to the Corning Museum of Glass to see all forms of beautifully crafted glass articles and the methods used to manufacture them including the art of glass blowing.

The final highlight of the reunion was the Awards Ceremony Presentations. This was held during the banquet on the last evening of the reunion. The presentation of the awards was conducted by Secretary Ivan Livi, in the absence of Awards Chairman Harold Walter, and assisted by President Dennis Yerkey.

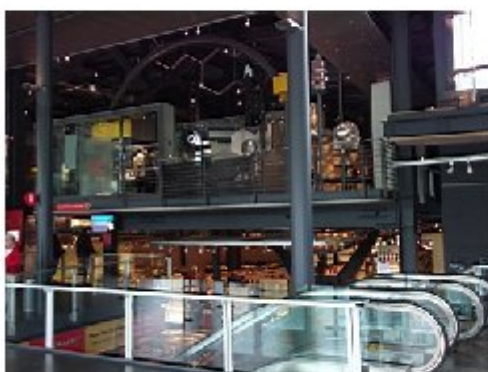
The awards presented were:

- Hall of Fame Award – Thomas E. Hendershot
- Legion of Merit Award – Alan “Doug” Moler
- Wing President Award – Norman Brush
- Clifford Ball Memorial Award – Kansas Wing
- Thomas Barruso – Presidential Citation
- Patricia Griswold – Presidential Citation
- Wayne Gordon – Presidential Citation
- Michael Lawernce – Presidential Citation
- Sylvia Cook – Presidential Citation
- Evelyn Latorre – Presidential Citation

The 56th Annual Reunion was a great success with the largest attendance in recent years. The thanks of the officers and Governors go to the Glenn Curtiss Wing for serving as the host and to all those who assisted and attended the reunion. Now, we are looking forward to next year.

Ivan D. Livi National Secretary

REUNION AND CORNING MUSEUM PHOTOS



AN OPEN LETTER TO CBW MEMBERS
PLEASE DONATE FOR THE CBW NEWSLETTER

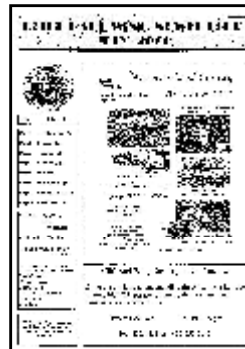
Approximately three years ago the activity factor of the CBW changed. The Wing became involved in scholarship programs for aviation students and supported the programs with fundraising activities. The Wing began researching and locating OX5 material, equipment, and memorabilia that belonged to the Wing, and the Wing began participating in activities directed to assisting the establishment of museums. One of the pivotal activities was the initiation of a Wing newsletter, something that had never been done before.

The newsletter began as a plain, simple, printed document on two 8 ½” x 11” sheets and slowly evolved into articles and information accompanied by black and white photos. The quality of the newsletter increased but the format has remained very much the same with single sheets and black and white photos. But, it is evident from the format of this issue that we are progressing into a different level using color photographs of our recent 56th Annual Reunion.

The use of color photos and a new format is our attempt to raise the caliber of our newsletter to the level of those published by other Wings. But, to do this we need financial support from our members. *Wings do not get any portion of the dues* paid by members, so, I ask that you consider making a donation to the CBW to help support the improvement of our newsletter publication.

Your donation, in any amount, will be greatly appreciated. It will assist in making our Wing medium of communication bigger and better. Make your donation check to CBW Newsletter and send to: OX5 CBW, PO Box 18561, Pittsburgh, Pa 15236-0561, Attn. Ivan D. Livi.

On behalf of the CBW I extend our thanks in advance for your support.
Best wishes for a good year.
Ivan D. Livi, Editor CBW President.





TRY THE NEW WEB PAGE

ox5.org

Our new OX5 Web Site was launched on May 17, 2011. Since that time there have been 15,000+ hits on the site. This is an excellent beginning for our new web site. If you have a computer, give it a try.

Goggle ox5.com.

NOTICE OF BY-LAWS CHANGE

IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS' APPROVAL OF BY-LAWS REVISIONS A BALLOT FOR VOTING ON THE CHANGES WILL BE SENT TO ALL MEMBERS IN GOOD STANDING.. WATCH YOUR MAIL AND BE SURE TO VOTE ON THE PROPOSED CHANGES. THE BOARD RECOMMENDS YOUR APPROVAL FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE OX5 ORGANIZATION.

NATIONAL DUES NOTICE

THE 2012 DUES OF \$30.00 ARE DUE JANUARY 1. MAKE YOUR CHECK PAYABLE TO OX5 AVIATION PIONEERS AND MAIL TO HEADQUARTERS AT: OX5 AVIATION PIONEERS,
 PO. BOX 18533, PITTSBURGH, PA 15236-0533
 I.D.Livi, Pres



Ron Paglia

Ed Lyons

Cliff Yerkey

Ivan Livi

Dennis Yerkey

LUNCH AT LA EDA'S RESTAURANT

An impromptu journey down Memory Lane evolved when Ivan Livi and Dennis Yerkey of CBW met with Cliff Yerkey, North Belle Vernon Mayor Ed Lyons and Ron Paglia at La Eda's Restaurant in Monessen. In addition to a delicious lunch they enjoyed a lot of excellent food for thought as they reminisced about growing up in the mid-Monongahela Valley. Here is some of what they discussed.

The Monessen Airport, later called the Belle Vernon Airport, located about three miles from the city limits, was granted a license as a commercial flying field the week of October 5, 1931 and with four planes on the ground was ready to care for any or all commercial or pleasure flights. The Belle Vernon Airport was located in the area where K Mart is now located in Rostraver Township.

The quintet at La Eda's discussed the famous – or infamous – wingless airplane that gathered widespread attention. The unique and controversial aircraft was scheduled to receive its first test Sunday, September 16, 1935 at the old Monessen Airport.

Bemis Johnson, inventor and designer of the wing-eliminating aircraft, asked Carl Lange, devil-may-care aviator, and Belle Vernon pilot Robert Scott to make the test. Lange, who recently moved from Belle Vernon to Weirton, WV., was reported to have returned to Belle Vernon and was being sought with Scott to make the test.

The eyes of the entire aviation world will be on Belle Vernon Sunday when Bemis H. Johnson puts his revolutionary wingless-type airplane through its first flight test at the Monessen Airport. The chances for the new airplane to fly are good, according to expert opinions of scores of flyers and aeronautical experts who have viewed it and followed the details of its construction during the past several weeks. The Monessen Daily Independent reported. "If it flies aviation history will have been made. If it so much as leaves the ground in its first trials its possibilities will be unlimited and it will herald a new, undreamed of era in air transportation.

More on the wingless airplane in future issues.
Source—Ron Paglia



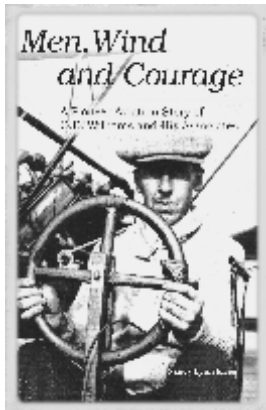
LIMITED EDITION AVIATION HISTORY

ONLY 12 COPIES REMAINING

There will not be a 2nd printing.

"A PLACE IN THE SKY"

This beautifully illustrated publication provides the history of aviation development in Western Pennsylvania. Authored by Richard D. Wissolik and published by the Saint Vincent College Center, this book tells the story of the Arnold Palmer Airport (LBE) in Latrobe, Pa. This 225 page, highly illustrated publication is replete with information, rare photographs, accounts of early aviation, the air mail pickup system, and the founding of the OX5 Aviation Pioneers.



"Men, Wind and Courage"

An extensive, in depth portrayal of the lives and accomplishments of Aviation's pioneers whose exploits laid the foundation for today's super-technical Aviation Industry. Author Nancy Mess's detailed research has brought into focus the names and works of many known and unknown men and women who were the building blocks of the Aviation structure. This 400 page profusely illustrated publication is a must read for every young and old aviation enthusiast.

MAIL THIS FORM AND YOUR CHECK TO:

Ivan D Livi, Pres
Cliff Ball Wing Dept Book
P.O. Box 18561
Pittsburgh, PA 15236-0561

- A Place in the Sky \$30.00 + \$5.00 S/H
- Men, Wind and Courage \$20.00 + \$3.00 S/H

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Questions: ivan.livi@verizon.net 412-655-7187 <http://ox5.org>



56th REUNION PHOTOS-HAMMONDSPORT, NY



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