

KANSAS WING **OX5 NEWS**

Harold Walter President 2022
 Joe Latas Vice President 2022
 Jay McLeod Secretary 2021
 JoAnn Bailey Treasurer 2022
 Harry Clements Membership 2021



Doug Moler Programs 2022
 Dale Krebs Marketing 2021
 Bobbie Walter Governor 2021
 John Winter Governor 2022

JUNE 2021 – VOL 2 HAROLD AND BOBBIE WALTER PLUS JOE LATAS, EDITORS

OX5 AVIATION PIONEERS KANSAS WING

Although the COVID-19 virus restrictions are easing, rules still exist. There will not be an OX5 Board meeting nor a general all membership meeting until the virus rules are alleviated to allow us to do so. We follow the rules, and do more if necessary.

Meeting: The OX5 Kansas Wing Board and general meeting COVID-19 situation is explained above.

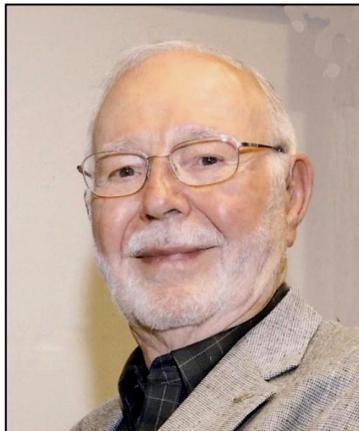


Photo by
Paul Bowen

different life. As youngsters, we have progressed to the situation that we had before the covid virus. I wish everyone success.

I think you'll like the article in this issue about the Blanton's Curtiss Robin. Thanks to Bob Blanton for writing the history. Also thanks to Dale Krebs for the photos and



coordination of the article.

Dale put the Pietenpol article together for our previous newsletter. His article contributions are very much appreciated. He has also contributed to the Kansas Aviation article in this issue.

President's Message. :I hope that all our OX5 members, and other readers of our newsletter have fully survived the pandemic success fully, The situation may never be completely over. We are learning to live a

Harold Walter, President KS Wing OX5 Aviation Pioneers

Secretary's Report:: Due to the COVID-19 virus we have not had a board nor a general meeting.



Jay W. McLeod

Jay's 100th birthday celebration on March 11 was a huge success. It is an honor to include his picture here. (Editor)

Jay McLeod is Secretary of the KS Wing OX5 Aviation Pioneers

Treasurer: Please mail or see Treasurer, JoAnn Bailey, to pay OX5 Kansas Wing annual dues of \$10. Please note: The fiscal year began on January 1.

JoAnn Bailey
1736 S. Emporia
Wichita, KS 67211

JoAnn Bailey, 316-258-4956

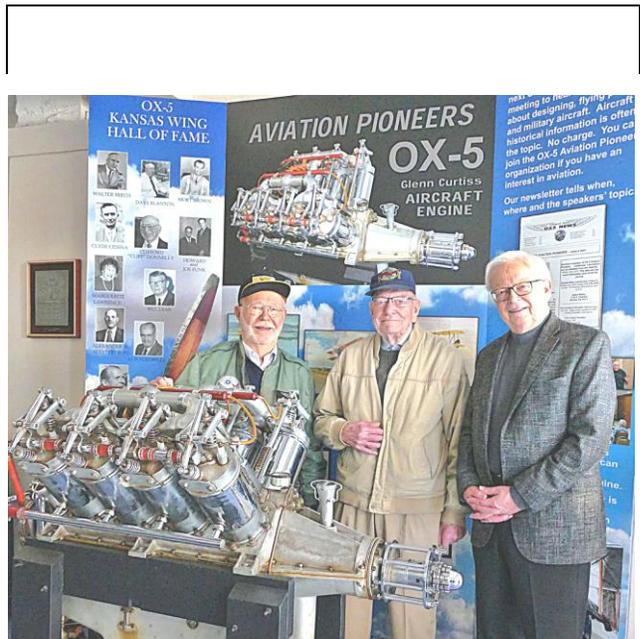
OX5 National annual dues are \$30. Make your check payable to *OX5 Aviation Pioneers*, and mail to:

OX5 Aviation Pioneers
PO Box 769
Troy, Ohio 45373



A view of the Popocatepetl volcano in Mexico taken from a King Air 360. It erupts a volcanic ash cloud as a welcome.

Photo courtesy Peter Herr



Curtiss OX-5 engine display at the Kansas Aviation Museum

L to R Harold Walter, Jay McLeod and Larry Hatteberg.

Photo by Dale Krebs



Article by Bob Blanton:

“In the late 40’s and 50’s my dad worked at Boeing. He gets credit for the concept of the flying boom that is used by all aerial tankers. In 1953 he started Javelin Aircraft building single axis autoplots. He designed, built and





installed over 400 large fuel tanks that added enough fuel for light aircraft to boost their range to 3,500+ miles for over-the ocean flights. Dad built 4,000 auxillary 18 gallon fuel tanks for single engine Cessnas. In 1957 our parents purchased the Curtiss Robin from Dan Linn and it was 19 years old. The Robin was in many pieces at that time and was more than ready for total restoration. Dad restored the Robin to flying condition from 1957 to 1961. In



1961 the plane was flown to the National Antique Fly-in and won the award for Best Antique Airplane in the Nation.

The Robin is a monoplane when other aircraft were bi-planes. It is a three seat airplane with a single seat up front for the pilot and two wicker seats behind the pilot for the passengers

and storage for luggage. Our Robin has a 170 HP Challenger 6 cylinder double row radial engine and a fixed pitch aluminum propeller. The metal propeller is another first by Curtiss Robin as other propellers at that time were all wood. This combination of powerful HP and metal propeller gave us a cruise speed of 96 mph with a 514 mile range. Seventeen Curtiss Robins a week were being built by the manufacturer



being built by the manufacturer at the height of their popularity. Two separate doors accommodate the pilot and passengers. The side windows can be lowered and raised with a strap. The large 41 foot wing span gives the plane good short takeoff and landing capabilities. The responsive controls combined with generous windows for the pilot provide forward and side and overhead vision that makes this plane a pilot's dream for safe flying.



Our family, Dave, Dalene, Darlene and myself received the Robin from our parents some years ago and we continue to enjoy this marvel of design. It features a tubular steel fuselage which was another first in the late 1920's. For navigation, the Robin was equipped with a magnetic compass, as all airplanes now use. It was supplied with a manual crank to start the engine

but fortunately our dad installed an electric starter. It was also fitted with wheel brakes and a steerable tail wheel and oleo-pneumatic landing gear system replacing the original bungee rubber cords.

Our Robin concluded its active years at air shows for display and on occasion would tow a glider. The Robin brand aircraft was also an ideal platform for sky divers which "Smitty the parachute jumper" used several times. Smitty is the artist who designed and painted the logo on our engine cowling "Red Red Robin". He signed the cowling as well.

Our Curtiss robin has so much history for aviation and our family that is important for us to keep it as a Blanton heirloom. We now have it hangared at the Newton Airport and we anticipate restoring it again someday.

Thank you, OX-5, for choosing our Robin to be featured in the June OX-5 Newsletter. Thanks Harold, this is lots of copy but it is for a very special Wichita owned antique aircraft. Thanks also for the good photos from Dale Krebs. This is a great Newsletter." Thank you, Bob Blanton for your contribution to this newsletter – a great airplane.

KANSAS AVIATION MUSEUM

Photos By Dale Krebbs



In the days of operation of the Wichita Municipal Airport, this was the entrance to the building

VISIT THE KANSAS AVIATION MUSEUM

3350 George Washington Blvd
Wichita, KS 6210

SUMMER HOURS

MONDAY/TUESDAY CLOSED

WEDNESDAY ----- 12-5

THURSDAY ----- 10-6

FRIDAY ----- 10-5

SATURDAY ----- 10-5

SUNDAY ----- 12-5



Portion of the Hall of Fame and famous aviation persons room



Replica of number 1 Laird Swallow with
Curtiss OXX-6 engine



Planes on the tarmac