

AEROGRAM

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MUSEUM STAFF

Trafford L-M. Doherty
Executive Director

Rick Leisenring
Curator

Paul Trepes
Education Director

Lynne Mason
Museum Store Manager

Karen Trepes
Bookkeeper

Arlene Day
Weekend Supervisor

Weekend Staff:
Terry Dee
Jacquie Doherty

Jean Doherty
Newsletter Editor
Collections Registrar
Membership Coordinator
Special Events Coordinator
Website Maintenance

CONSTRUCTION BEGINS AT THE MUSEUM

During the last 13 years, the Curtiss Museum has enjoyed a steady increase in attendance, to the extent that the lack of capacity of our restrooms was proving to be problematical. In addition, on busy days, we have noted that our museum store has not been able to provide sufficient space for our visitors to fully appreciate what we have to offer - it was simply too crowded! The answer, of course, was to expand both areas of the museum. In order to accomplish this, we had to repurpose existing storage and office spaces - and this in turn led to the decision to build new offices and storerooms by adding a second floor above the existing offices. The second floor will be served by an elevator, as well as a stairway. Add a kitchenette and two small restrooms to the mix and we have a major project that will cost slightly in excess of a million dollars and take four months to complete. Construction work is being done by Elmira Structures with about a 10-person team that begins work around 7:00 AM each weekday morning.



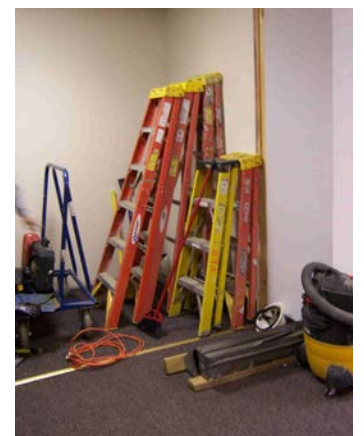
Plastic curtains help to protect exhibits from dust



Lots of wires to move - telephone, internet, alarm system



Walls coming down



Ready for action





This renovation is a major milestone for the Curtiss Museum that we believe will serve the needs of the institution and visiting public for the foreseeable future.

Demolition began on the museum store, restroom and office areas on January 20, with hopes of renovation completion by Memorial Day Weekend. A new, second-floor boardroom will be created with a panoramic view of the museum. It is intended that the boardroom would also be available for community use. The offices have temporarily been moved to the restoration shop area and a restroom trailer has been moved into the catering area next to the restoration shop so we won't have to worry about frozen water lines, and visitors can access them from the museum interior. Visitors have been coming to see the museum during construction, entering via the shop entrance, but we are not charging admission, just asking them to leave a donation. Most of the exhibits are available to view, but certain items that must not be allowed to get dusty, such as the motorcycles, cars, boats, etc., have been covered up. Visitors have been very receptive to the unexpected entrance to the museum and have been quite generous with their donations. They are also appreciative of the opportunity to see the restoration shop on the way into the museum. All of the contents of the offices that were not needed for use in the temporary offices, have been stored in the museum's open area.



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Secretary

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- Thomas G. Snow**
- Thomas Tranter**
- Arthur H. Wilder**

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Trustee Emeritus

Charles "Bud" Shaw
Trustee Emeritus

Peter Baker, Esq.
Trustee Emeritus



From the Director - Trafford Doherty

After much thought and consideration, I have decided that it's time for me to step down - and in keeping with that decision, I announced my retirement plans to the Board on February 1st. It was not an easy decision; this museum and the people associated with it are very dear to me and I do not take this decision lightly. But for a number of reasons, I feel that I need to move on. I intend to remain in place through July, because of a number of rather demanding facility rental events that are occurring during that period - I'd prefer not to dump that into someone else's lap. And, of course, there's our Phase I project, which is well underway. Seeing this project to its completion is priority #1 (for all of us). Preparing for it was an incredible amount of work - performed by museum staff, our volunteers and a small group of Mercury employees (strong fellows, by the way, with good senses of humor). A lot of things had to be moved out of the way in order for this to happen - and most of it will have to go back - this time, upstairs! But we will get it done - hopefully on time.

We have seen so many milestones over the years; exciting things like the placement of the C-46, the completions of the A-1, the *America* - and their respective fights, all of the Curtiss Centennials, the completion of the Early Bird and Seaplane Wall exhibits (well done, Rick!), and the addition of the *Virginia Dare II* to our collection - one of the many excellent boats, cars, motorcycles and aircraft that have been added to our wonderful collection over the years. Some of the more mundane things that I have also been involved in include repainting the building, upgrading the septic system, new carpeting, parking lot upgrades, and the "big one" - getting hooked up to the village water main. These were all significant improvements for the museum and I am proud to have been a part of them.

Over the last 13 years, we have seen the passing of a number of dear museum friends from the ranks of our staff, volunteers, and membership. Some of them I didn't know all that well, while others were my personal friends. I think of them often - as we all do.

It has been an honor and a privilege for me to have served as your Director. Together, we have accomplished great things, through the efforts of our dedicated staff and volunteers, plus excellent (and generous) support from our membership. And by the way, I would not have enjoyed even a fraction of my success without the continuous support by my wife, Jean. Aside from doing the *Aerogram*, maintaining the website, coordinating special events, managing the golf tournament (2007-2014), functioning as Collections Registrar (her "official position"), local advertising and handling a myriad of clerical functions, she is also the Membership Chairperson! All of the membership letters that I have signed over the years were produced by Jean.

You can be assured that, during these next few months preceding my retirement, Jean and I will continue to work as diligently as ever to ensure the success of the museum and to attend to the satisfaction and enjoyment of its members and visitors.

It is my most sincere wish that the Curtiss Museum continues to prosper and to fulfill its mission to celebrate the genius of Glenn Hammond Curtiss.



Traff in his old office with Lucy the beagle

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

June - November 2016

**Warehouse 53 Exhibit:
Adventures in the
Cinema**

May 7, 2016

Old Engines Day

June - September 2016

Art Exhibit

August 6-7, 2016

Motorcycle Weekend

August 15, 2016

Curtiss Golf Classic

Sept. 16-Nov. 6, 2016

Civil War Exhibit

Sept. 17, 2016

Seaplane Homecoming

Nov. 18-Jan. 22, 2016

Embroidery Exhibit

Nov. 19-Feb. 12, 2016

**26th Annual Miniatures
& Dollhouse Exhibit**

NEW MEMBERS

Sponsor

Mark & Sara Nickerson
Robert & Mary Ann Janda

Supporting

Carole Dinmore

Contributor

Cathy & John Walton
Mary Jo Savino
Kenneth Kent
Bruce Shoemaker
Jennifer Long & Tom
McGrew



Restoration Shop - *Art Wilder*

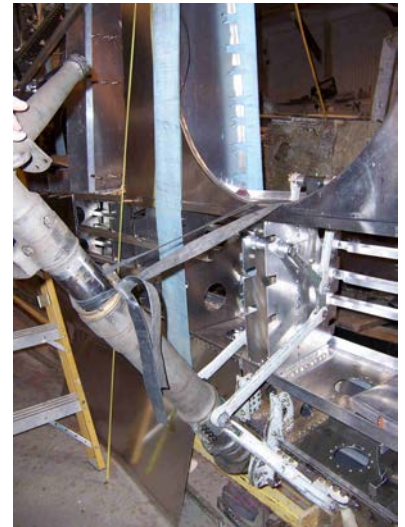
P-40 We are making further significant progress on both wings. The landing gear in both wings is close to ready to hook up to hydraulic power. The gear that causes the 90-degree rotation during extension and retraction are in the final machining process. The Mercury Corporation-manufactured ailerons are in position on both wings. Fabrication of the flaps, using some original parts, has been started. The new firewall is being set up using many of the old parts. The wing skin areas, through which spent shell casings and belt links are ejected, are nearing completion of repair.



Original Mercury-built ailerons



Firewall



Landing gear completed

Wright J-6-7 Radial Engine

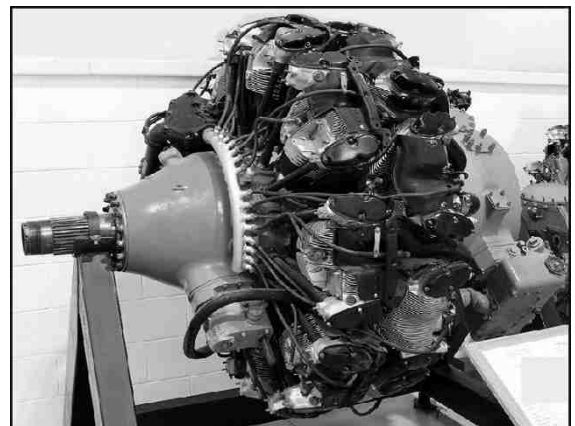
The assembly of this engine is being done in our welding shop. Wright introduced the J-6 Whirlwind family in 1928 to replace the nine-cylinder R-790 series. The J-6 family included varieties with five, seven, and nine cylinders. The seven-cylinder version was originally known as the **J-6 Whirlwind Seven**, or **J-6-7** for short. The U.S. government designated it as the **R-760**; Wright later adopted this and dropped the J-6 nomenclature. The R-760 was a direct replacement for the R-790, with similar displacement and power. The U.S. Navy used it as the power plant for several bi-plane primary trainers, including the Consolidated NY, the Curtiss N2C Fledgling and the Naval Aircraft Factory N3N Canary.



Wright R-3350 Engine

We have received from Yanks Museum in Chino, California, a Wright twin-row, 18-cylinder radial engine with horsepower ranging from 2200 to over 3700 hp.

The Wright R-3350 is a twin-row radial engine developed from the Wright R-1820 Cyclone and was one of the most powerful radial engines produced in the United States. Work on the engine began in January 1936 and the first R-3350 was run in May 1937. Development proceeded slowly due to the complex nature of the engine. It was similar in design to the company's R-2600 14-cylinder radial, sharing the same bore and stroke, but adding four more cylinders for additional displacement. Development accelerated after the USAAC issued its requirement for a long-range heavy bomber in 1940 resulting in the *Boeing B-29 Superfortress*. A serious effort was then made to get the engine into production and the R-3350 finally made its first flight in 1941.



Wright R-3350

Marketing Committee Report - *Denny Carlson*

Over the last ten years, the number of visitors to the Glenn H. Curtiss Museum (GHCM) have greatly increased and is now approaching 25,000 paid visitors per year. This is the result of several factors, including a general growth of tourism in Central New York over the same period.

Forecasts for tourism growth over the next number of years, heavily fueled by the push by New York State to attract visitors to Central New York, is in the 4 to 5% growth range per year. The objective of the GHCM is to be at the 35,000 visitor level by the end of 2019. In order for this to be accomplished, we understand and believe that more effective marketing will be the key to our success in exceeding the pace of the market.

For a portion of 2015, and for all of 2016, we have allocated additional funds to support these marketing efforts. One significant piece will be the roll out of the new GHCM website at the end of Quarter 1 2016. The focus of the website will be graphically more attractive to the visitor (to the website) and will have a stronger call to action – VISIT US. In addition, we have contracted with an experienced marketer to help us with this as well as the general broadened use of social media and other public relations efforts. Needless to say, the competition is tough in regard to getting “a piece” of a visitor’s time while in the area.

Regarding the construction that is currently taking place - the outcome will be to provide the visitor with an enhanced lobby area to facilitate admissions, an enlarged museum store, allowing for better merchandise presentation and flow and upgraded rest rooms. There will also be provisions made for offices and conference room to be moved from the main floor exhibit area to an upper level location. This construction activity is scheduled to be completed by the end of May.

As it has been said before, word of mouth is one of the best ways we have to bring repeat and new visitors. We appreciate your telling others about the GHCM and make sure you tell them that the GHCM is moving forward and is and will continue to be a strong local tourist destination. We hope to see you at the Museum.

In Memoriam

DR. RICHARD MACEKO

Curtiss Museum member and husband of museum board member, Ellen Shaw Maceko, Richard D. Maceko, 63, of Hammondsport, NY passed away unexpectedly Dec. 29, 2015 at his home.

Richard was born July 14, 1952, in Youngstown, Ohio, and grew up in Struthers, Ohio, a nearby suburb. Rick received his undergraduate degree at Kent State University in Ohio and his DDS degree at Ohio State University. He moved to the Hammondsport area in 1985 and soon after purchased an established dental practice in Bath, NY.

Rick loved the outdoors and working on projects at his home on Keuka Lake. He was an avid boater, swimmer, scuba diver and walker. He enjoyed traveling and was especially fond of coastal Florida and Barbados. He was a kind and generous man who always had a kind word for everyone. In addition to running his dental practice, he was a member of the Glenwood Club, St. Gabriel’s Roman Catholic Church, and he very much enjoyed his time as part of the wine tasting group, KEG. For the past few years he served as one of the non-attorney members of the Fourth Department Appellate Division’s Attorney Grievance Committee. He also loved watching Ohio State football game. He also was part of the Industrial League at the Bath Country Club and enjoyed the league for several years.

MUSEUM RENOVATION DONATIONS

PHASE I

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Cindy & Linwood Hough
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Marilyn Grigsby
J.A. Chisholm
Vincent Bedient
Mike & Joan Gabrielli
Dick & Susan Rogers
Dick & Jennifer Honeyman

In Memoriam

BILL SCHWEIZER

Curtiss Museum member, Bill Schweizer, age 98, passed away peacefully at his home in Elmira, NY, on January 8, 2016 surrounded by his loving family.

Bill's business career always focused on aviation, his true passion. Bill and his two brothers, Paul and Ernie, owned and operated Schweizer Aircraft Co., one of the foremost manufacturers of sailplanes and agricultural spray aircraft. During its many years of operation, Schweizer Aircraft produced over 2100 sailplanes and 2600 Ag-Cat agricultural aircraft. Bill's primary focus was production management. He also was responsible for the company's subcontract business, through which Schweizer produced components for nearly every major aerospace company.

Of great importance to Bill was his commitment to the Elmira community which included service on the West Elmira Board of Education from 1954-1957; involvement with the National Soaring Museum from its inception; and service as a Director of the Elmira Savings Bank from 1966 through 1996, including as its Chairperson from 1984 through 1987. Bill also served on the Board of Directors of S. F. Iszard Company from 1982 through 1990 and served on the Board of Directors of Arnot Ogden Hospital from 1969 to 1998 and as its Chairman from 1983 through 1987. Bill and Peg's generous contribution helped fund the Medical Center's Schweizer Pavilion, completed in 2005.



LEE ROBBINS

Curtiss Museum Trustee Emeritus, Lee Robbins, age 84, died on Dec. 25, 2015. Lee loved flying and soloed at 17, flew many, many different kinds of planes, gave rides, instructed, built, and rebuilt many planes and wanted nothing more than to fly his whole life. One plane he and some friends built, Breezy, was donated and is on display at the Wings of Eagles Discovery Center. As a young man, he went to work for his brother, Bill, at Elmira Aeronautical Corp. at the Elmira Airport. There he washed planes, instructed, did the bookkeeping, and took passengers for rides to gain his many needed certifications. In 1954 he was hired as a pilot by Corning, Inc. and later served as their Director of Aviation for 36 years.

Lee was very community minded. He assisted his wife as a Girl Scout leader when he wasn't flying, was a member and president of Horseheads Optimist Club, Horseheads Rotary Club, Trustee and president of the National Soaring Museum where he also flew and towed gliders for the Harris Hill Flying Club. Lee also served as Trustee at Glenn Curtiss Museum and organized their first fundraising golf tournament. He was a 60-year member of the Masonic Lodge of Troy, a past member of the Horseheads Elks and Corning Country Club. Lee was honored to be elected a member of, and then chairman of, the National Business Aircraft Assoc. representing Corning, Inc. He served as board member and president of the Experimental Aircraft Assoc., the Red Cross, Southern Tier Economic Growth, was a past board member and Vice Chairman of the Board of Elmira Savings Bank, served on the Horseheads School Board for nine years, was past president of Community Foundation of Steuben and Chemung County, and vice president of Corning Enterprises. The three Robbins brother's Bill, Clyde and Lee received the Lifetime Achievement Award from the FAA in 2002. He loved flying for the National Warplane Museum, now the Wings of Eagles Discovery Center, and worked on and flew many of their planes, and was honored to fly the DC-3 when it was taken to Illinois to be sold



MEMORIALS

In Memory of Rachel Nicklaus

Mike Doyle
Tom & Lynn Chadwick
John Diehl
Elizabeth Chadwick
Richard & Linda Wheeler
John & Bev Webster
Lochland School

In Memory of Thomas H. O'Brien

Janet & Jim Hallahan

In Memory of Norman Henry Pfeiffer

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In Memory of Irvin C. Spears

Janet & Jim Hallahan

In Memory of Walter J. Carl, Jr.

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CURATOR'S CORNER - RICK LEISENRING

Winter is in full force by now, but as I write this it's 40 degrees outside. The strangest weather in years!

As you all know by now, the museum is under construction, with the enlargement of the bathrooms and Museum store as well as relocating our offices. So now the "cat's out of the bag" and you all know what the request for sheets is for - covering vulnerable exhibits to protect them from dust! Most of our time since August has been concentrated on moving and relocating artifacts and displays, not to mention the library, archives and offices. Thank you to all who have chipped in and helped! And don't forget - there will be another massive move when we have to put everything back in position, hopefully at the end of May.

The construction is scheduled to be completed around Memorial Day which means our exhibit schedule has to be altered. At this time it is planned to present the very popular exhibit, *Warehouse 53: an Exhibit of Adventures in the Cinema*. sometime in June and then running it through to November 6. The 2016 Embroidery Exhibit will run from Nov. 18, 2016 to Jan. 22, 2017. The dates for the Doll House & Miniatures Exhibit will remain the same, Nov. 19, 2016 to Feb. 12, 2017. Added to the mix is an Art exhibit, June to Sept. 5, 2016 and a Civil War Exhibit, Sept. 16 to Nov. 6, 2016. Now with that said, this is a tentative schedule, hinging on the actual construction completion date.

2015 was the museum's most successful year yet, and we all thank you for making it possible!!

It's a Small World – Richard Siegrist

On our travels, my wife, Jean, and I will visit an aviation-themed site whenever possible (meaning: I drag her into every aviation museum we come across)! On our latest adventure, we took the train from Montreal, Quebec to Halifax, Nova Scotia. From Halifax we rented a car and drove to Baddeck, Cape Breton Island, to see the Alexander Graham Bell Museum. The museum overlooks Bras d'Or, the vast inland waterway at the heart of Cape Breton Island, as does Beinn Breagh, (Gaelic for "beautiful mountain"), the home of Mabel & Alexander Graham Bell. The museum is excellent and was more than worth the visit. I learned that "Ma Bell" stood for Mabel Bell, A. G. Bell's beloved wife. Mabel and Alexander Bell founded the Aerial Experiment Association, along with J. A. D. McCurdy, Casey Baldwin, Thomas Selfridge and Glenn H. Curtiss. Mabel Bell put up the money, was the treasurer of the AEA, and got along very well with Glenn Curtiss. As a child, Mabel had lost her hearing as a result of rheumatic fever, as had Glenn's sister. Mabel and Glenn became very good friends due to his ability to use sign language and speak directly to her. In the Bell museum is the Canadian Silver Dart reproduction of 2009 which celebrated the 100th anniversary of flight in Canada and the British Commonwealth, which happened at Bras d'Or in February 1909. The original Silver Dart was built and test flown in Hammondsport, powered by a Curtiss V-8 engine. The Bell Museum has the original 1909 gasoline tank, radiator and propeller – all built in Hammondsport.

Now for the "small world" part: While out front taking photos of Beinn Breagh and Bras d'Or, an elderly lady came up to me to say that she noticed I was from the Curtiss Museum (I was wearing my museum shirt and cap). She introduced herself and told me that her aunt, Margaret "Peggy" Squires was Glenn's personal secretary and that her grandfather was trained to fly a hydro-aeroplane by Curtiss on Keuka Lake at Hammondsport. With research, we found a photo of her aunt and one of the hydro-aeroplane classes at Hammondsport taught by Glenn Curtiss and Gink Doherty (grandfather of our museum director, Traff Doherty). In that class were John Ellyson, John Towers, and her grandfather.



Silver Dart 2009

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Bras d'Or Lake
at Cape Breton Island

GLENN H. CURTISS MUSEUM
8419 State Route 54
Hammondsport, NY 14840

Phone: 607-569-2160
Fax: 607-569-2040
Email: info@glennhcurtissmuseum.org
Web: www.glennhcurtissmuseum.org



WINTER 2016



MUSEUM HOURS

WINTER

Nov.1-Apr. 30
Mon.-Sun. 10-4

SUMMER

May 1-Oct.31
Mon.-Sat. 9-5
Sunday 10-5

Museum closed on the following holidays:

- New Year's Day
- Easter Sunday
- Thanksgiving Day
- Christmas Eve
- Christmas Day

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The Glenn H. Curtiss Museum, 8419 State Route 54, Hammondsport, NY 14840

Contributing \$50 Sponsor \$125 Patron \$500

Supporting \$80 Donor \$250 Sustaining \$750

Benefactor \$1000 Curtiss Society \$1500

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Home phone _____ e-mail address _____

My check is enclosed

Please bill my Credit Card# _____ exp. date _____

(MasterCard-Visa-Discover-American Express)

V-code _____

Signature _____

Additional tax-deductible donations will be used for museum improvements including up-grading facilities, restoration shop and new exhibits.