

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

FROM THE DIRECTOR - Trafford Doherty

December 2015 will complete the 13th year of our tenure here at the Curtiss Museum. For Jean and me, this period has been a high water mark in our life experiences. It is extremely gratifying to see the positive reaction to our museum that we see from our visitors on a daily basis. The culmination of this positive reaction was the Glenn H. Curtiss Museum being awarded the 2015 *Trip Advisor Certificate of Excellence*, and last month, the Steuben Courier's "Best Museum" in the area. This is no accident – it the result of an enduring effort to maximize the potential of the available space, and the collection. From the day I got here, this has always been the first and foremost objective in my own personal *Strategic Plan*. What we created here literally dazzles the visiting public. We consistently exceed their expectations – and that's exactly where we want to be. Staff and volunteers alike have been hard at work at this for many years now, building upon a legacy that goes back more than 50 years. I often wonder what our founder, Otto Kohl, would think of today's museum, now located in a 57,000 square foot building and chock full of wonderful things. Of course, many of our unique artifacts, including the famous hair wreath, were procured by Otto himself. It is he whom we have to thank for the great diversity that we enjoy in our collection today. He was a former Curtiss employee and a "Curtiss Man" through and through. But if something came along that was interesting – Curtiss related, or not – he grabbed it. The huge variety of our collection is our greatest asset and our more recent marketing efforts have gently, but firmly, been placing increased emphasis on this attribute. We have the largest collection of early Curtiss aircraft and motorcycles (under one roof) in the world - but (and I know this is hard to believe) not everyone is into planes and bikes (What's that all about?!), so it is greatly to our advantage to be able to offer additional areas of interest to our visitors.

Another person who should be mentioned along with Otto Kohl is Joseph F. Meade, Jr. Joe, and his wife, Helen, were involved with the museum from its inception and it is he who drove the purchase of our present building and ultimately committed the resources of his company, Mercury Aircraft, to assist in moving the museum to the new location in 1992. He was also the main driver behind getting the C-46 here from the (then) National Warplane Museum in 2002. Placing that airplane out front (in September 2003) was a master stroke. For years, people had been driving by, largely unaware that we were here. That stopped when the C-46 was set in place and this stands in my mind as the greatest single contribution, relating to public awareness of our museum, that's ever been made. The C-46 was actually owned at the time by the Smithsonian, but they ultimately gave it to us several years back (that part, I was involved in). I didn't know Joe all that well, but he struck me as a *visionary* who, at the same time, possessed a lot of common sense (the two don't always go together). Joe, and Helen, both passed away back in 2010, but not before seeing much of their vision for our museum become a reality.



Trafford Doherty in front of Curtiss Museum



Hair Wreath



There is another member of the Meade family I would like to mention: Joe and Helen's daughter, Marcia, who, as a trained architect, was largely responsible for the excellent layout of our present facility. Those of us who operate this museum are reminded on a daily basis of just how creative and effective her design has proven to be – year after year. She *nailed it!* Sadly, Marcia died unexpectedly back in 2013 and she is sorely missed. I think of her often, especially when we're very busy.



Her overall design for our main entrance, lobby, and Admissions/Museum Shop desk areas, accommodates large numbers of visitors so very well.

I have been involved in a myriad of things over the years – ranging from new carpeting, and repainting the building, to installing new septic and water systems, but my main source of pride came from the development of our exhibit structure – my particular favorite being the addition of the *Virginia Dare* in 2013. I sure wish my dad could have been here – he used to watch it roar by on Keuka Lake when he was a kid – with Rod Pierce at the wheel. For those of you who aren't familiar with Rod, he used to get his kicks by swamping small boats – the *Virginia Dare* is 33 feet long, weighs **6000** lbs. (fully loaded) and would do **60** mph.



Another aspect of our operation that I take pride in is the fact that the museum has, in recent years, been operating under budget and has on several occasions greatly exceeded the anticipated overall income levels. The major factors in this have been steadily increasing revenues while keeping costs down. An increasingly fine product combined with hard working staff and volunteers, and generous support from our members, enables this to happen. If we had to hire contractors to repair all the things that our Restoration Shop guys have fixed (or built) for us over the years, it would have amounted to tens of thousands of dollars (in the case of the *America*, hundreds of thousands of dollars). The same thing holds true for our front desk folks and for our docents. The fact that they are all willing to provide these services, as volunteers, is the basis of our operation and a core principal in not-for-profit operations. Combine this with a small staff who is willing to share responsibilities to get the job done and you can see why we have done so well.

It has been an incredibly fast and fulfilling 13 years – and through it all, my wife, Jean, has been helping me along – you know her mostly as Editor of this newsletter and Membership Coordinator, but her main function has been to keep me on track. And, most of the time, she has been reasonably successful. Speaking of that - my staff, our volunteers, and you, our members, have all served in that capacity. I've listened to all of you over the years and have appreciated your input, but that having been said, there is one additional group that has always had my ear – our visitors. We all can learn from them – and their overwhelmingly positive response to our museum has been a great personal pleasure to me during the years I have been executive director.

CURTISS MUSEUM OFFICERS

Richard Honeyman
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Trafford Doherty
Director

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Trustee Emeritus

Peter Baker, Esq.
Trustee Emeritus



SEAPLANE HOMECOMING 2015 - CAMERON DUNLAP

Seaplane Homecoming was a great success once again this year. The weather was cooperative, a nice mix of seaplanes participated and the crowd was very enthusiastic. I counted 8 planes ranging from Cessnas and a Maule on floats to a Seabee, 2 Seareys, a Lake Amphibian and the ubiquitous Grumman Widgeon. The pilots had a blast sharing their knowledge and love for seaplane flying with the attendees on the ground, on the water and in the air. One of the Seareys was piloted by two European enthusiasts, Emil Rollin and Uli Hasche, who were in the middle of a long tour of the US with stops at many seaplane fly-ins.



Searey

As to our fundraising effort, I am pleased to report that we hit our goal with the help of several generous donors, along with raffles and 50/50s at the site and revenue from the banquet dinner.

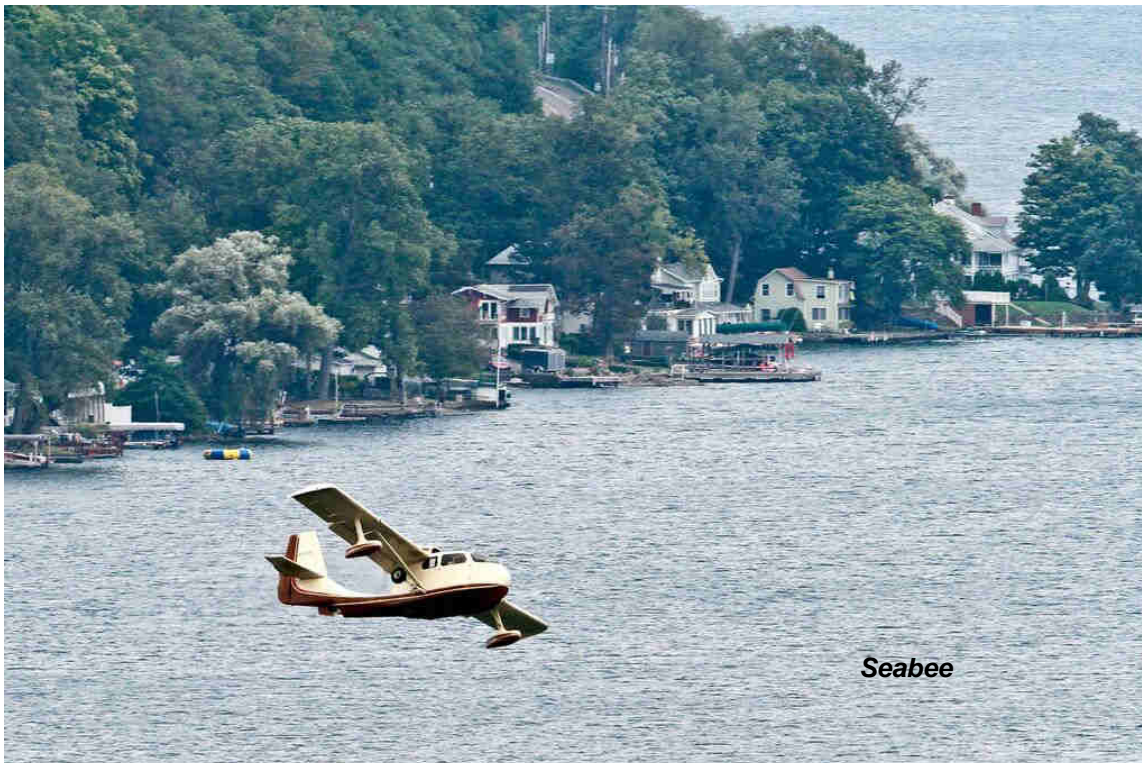
The museum was well represented during the event with a booth providing lots of great info about Glenn Curtiss and museum store items. Thanks to the folks who worked that booth all day.

Thanks to the Rotary and to Christine Kolo for providing food options and also to Traff Doherty who worked with me in planning and executing this event.

The banquet dinner was wonderful, with great food from the always generous, Christine Kolo and her crew. Our guest speaker was Steven McCaughey, Executive Director of the Seaplane Pilots Association – the international organization representing and advocating for all seaplane pilots, their airplanes and the business of water flying worldwide. Needless to say, while he was here he fell in love with the area, Keuka Lake and the Glenn H. Curtiss Museum. I am quite certain that he (and S.P.A.) will be helping us to organize and grow future homecomings. For me... this is huge!

Many thanks to all who contributed of their time and resources to the success of this event - Thanks to those who attended, and special thanks to the pilots who (at their own expense) shared their wonderful machines, and paid tribute to the "Father of Naval Aviation", Glenn H. Curtiss.

Next year's event will take place on September 17th, 2016 and I will look forward to seeing you there!



Seabee

Seaplane Homecoming Underwriters 2015

Barry Holtz
Jim Lally
Dick Rogers
D.L. Bardin
Cameron Dunlap



From The Restoration Shop - Art Wilder

P-40: The 2nd wing (left side) is being assembled in the support frame. Surface skin is starting to be installed. Landing gear in the right wing is in the final assembly stage. We are making up a hydraulic system to operate the landing gear.



P-40: Right wing nearly complete



Left wing skin started

Fledgling: Assembly of fuselage seats and controls continues.

Museum Internal Construction Project: The Shop Volunteers also spent some time preparing for a planned museum internal project, mainly making space in the Archives area. This cleared area will accommodate items currently being stored over the office area.

Herb Townsend: Our good friend, Herb Townsend passed away November 5th. Herb piloted our restored Curtiss-Wright Junior in 2000 at Kolo Field. He had a great love for everything involved with flying. He owned several planes including a Cessna 150, and an Aeronca Champ. Herb also built 4 ultralights and a Pietenpol Air Camper.

Special Museum Visitors October 1, 2015: We often hear about the early pilots that Curtiss trained in Hammondsport, and on October 1st we had visitors who connected us to another type of trainee, the early "Mechanicians" who were essential in keeping the aeroplanes operating.

Barbara Bourdan Burd, her husband, Richard, and Mary Bourdon Hannagan showed us photos and records of their grandfather, H. Frederick Bourdon, who was one of these Curtiss mechanic trainees. Today he would be called an A&E mechanic.

One of the photos shows Barbara and Mary's grandfather with the C-2 Flying boat which Glenn Curtiss built for the US Navy.

H. Frederick Bourdon →
second man from right



Marketing Committee Report - *Denny Carlson*

The new Curtiss Museum website development is underway with anticipated completion and launch by the end of the First Quarter 2016. This new website will be even more user-friendly and will have a very definite "call to action" to visit the Museum, become a member and/or support the Museum in other ways.

Tracking of current website visits and museum visitation shows a very direct and timely correlation. With visitor growth being a primary objective, it is intended that the focus of the website redesign will lead to significant increase in site visits and use for planning trips to the area and selecting the Museum as a destination. This will be accomplished with the website communicating a more complete picture of what the Museum offers, hopefully attracting a broader audience. With competition continuing to increase for the attention of visitors to the area (Wineries, Watkins Glen, Corning Museum of Glass), it is important to ensure that we appeal to a large variety of area visitors.

The Curtiss Museum has also expanded its involvement with experienced marketing resources to enhance our public relations activity for more consistent market exposure - this includes new markets as well as current markets. We believe that continued commitment to these activities will help to meet our visitor growth objectives.

The Museum Store has performed very well over the last number of months with the offering of many new items attractive displays. One of the features of the new website will be enhanced ordering of Museum items on line which will be prominently displayed on the website.

Events at the Museum that have been routinely offered are being reviewed for ways to increase the interest of visitors and hence attendance at these functions. More information will be available on this activity over the next number of months.

As said before, word of mouth is one of the best ways we have to bring in repeat and new visitors. So, we ask for your help in continuing to tell your friends and family to visit the Museum while they are in the area.

We wish everyone a Happy and Safe Holiday Season.

Glenn H. Curtiss Museum Marketing Committee

CHRISTMAS SHOPPING IN THE MUSEUM STORE!

A great variety of items are available for everyone on your list. We specialize in stocking-stuffers for the kids. And who doesn't need a Keuka Lake wine bottle holder.



↑ Lots of cool items for the kids



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Nov. 13, 2015 - Feb. 14, 2016

25th Annual Dollhouse & Miniatures Exhibit

March 4 - Sept. 5, 2016

Warehouse 53 Exhibit: Adventures in the Cinema

MEMBER DONATIONS

Tad & Ruth Manske
Don & Donna McIntire
Todd & Janet O'Connell
Russ & Judy Cranston
Mark Shaw
Nell Hennessy &
Frank Daspit
Richard Rahill
James Carey
Deke Johnson
John & Loretta Hintz

DONATIONS

Carol Shirley
Mike Brittingham

RESTORATION SHOP DONATIONS

Lee Schwoerer Trust
Mr. & Mrs. Ed Babor
Gilbert & Margaret Switzer
Linda & Ron Beyer

DONATION IN HONOR OF JIM LALLY

Barbara Utter - Clarence Contemporary Club

DONATION IN HONOR OF JIM & MARY LIZ DUGGAN

Hugh & Kathleen Hiney



In Memoriam

RACHEL NICKLAUS

Long time museum member, Rachel Ann King Nicklaus, 86, passed away peacefully in her home on 11/14/2015.

Rachel will be remembered here as an enthusiastic supporter and patron of the Curtiss Museum. She was a major underwriter for many of the museum's fundraisers, and even played in our museum golf tournament in past years. We will all miss her bright and cheerful personality.

Rachel was born January 21, 1929 in Williamsport, PA to Leon and Harriet (Whitehead) King. She was a young girl when she and her family moved to Rock Stream, NY. Rachel graduated from Dundee Central School in 1947.



She is survived by her son, Roy Hepler (Sandra); daughter, Catherine Chadwick; step-daughters, Patricia (Nicklaus) Sabin and Antonia Nicklaus; step-daughter-in-law, Terry (Nicklaus) Cesari; and several grandchildren and great-grandchildren. She is preceded in death by her parents; husbands, George Hepler and Frank E. Nicklaus; daughter, Nancy Chadwick; and step-son, Frank Nicklaus, II.

HERB TOWNSEND

Museum member and pilot, Herbert J. Townsend, died on November 5, 2015 at the Steuben Centers in Bath, NY, following a long battle with Parkinson's disease. Herbert was born on March 27, 1929 to Jerome and Lois Townsend. He graduated from Haverling High School in 1948 and married Shirley Kinsman on February 19, 1949. They celebrated 60 years of marriage in February of 2009, but Shirley died later that year in June.

Herb owned and operated a dairy farm on Windfall Rd. in Bath, NY. What he loved doing most was flying; he was a pilot who owned his own plane and was often referred to as the flying farmer. He built his own air strip, which was called Jolamtra Airport. He later got involved in ultralight aircrafts, which he built and sold, as well as flying them himself. He was a member of the First Presbyterian Church of Bath, a lifetime member of the Bath Grange, served on the board of directors for Steuben REA, was involved in various flying clubs and worked at Mercury Aircraft in the maintenance department for a few years before retiring.

MEMBERSHIP LEVEL CHANGES

The Marketing Committee has decided to eliminate the basic level which was at \$35 and start membership levels at the \$50 contributing level. Starting with your next membership renewal, the lowest level available will be Contributor.

The Contributor level benefits are well worth the small increase in dollars. Contributors receive the following: Museum newsletter, Free admission for **2** — *May include 2 or more children or grandchildren ages 18 and under* • 10% Gift Shop Discount • **6** Guest Passes which never expire.

MEMORIALS

In Memory of Rachel Nicklaus

Art & Kay Wilder
John Diehl

In Memory of Robert "Bud" Burns, Jr.

Art & Kay Wilder

In Memory of Jack Shimonsky

Janet & Jim Hallahan

In Memory of Herb Townsend

Art & Kay Wilder
Harold Dickinson, Jr.
Carol Battaglia
Carroll Wade Mercury, Inc.
Central Steuben Flying Club
Bath Grange
Ruth & Ron Hann
Tom & Karen McKerlie

In Memory of James F. Allington

Janet & Jim Hallahan

In Memory of Scott Wheeler

Janet & Jim Hallahan



Dolores & Bob Magee at the museum this month with the ornament that Bob designed for the White House Christmas tree in 2008.

CURATOR'S CORNER - RICK LEISENRING

Well, I'm not sure what happened, but I could have sworn I just wrote an article and now I'm doing it again. What happened to summer!? With that said, the Quilt Show was a great hit this year and Candace Hosier and her phenomenal team did a great job! Well done! We are now into the Dollhouse and Miniature Show for the holiday season. This show has a really nice selection of items and is well worth a visit. Currently the show is scheduled to run through February 14th, 2016.

I've mentioned in my last article that the exhibit for the summer of 2016 will be the very popular exhibit *Warehouse 53: an Exhibit of Adventures in the Cinema*. What I forgot to add and am proud to announce is that I will have an intern working specifically on this exhibit with me. She is Anna Lukacko Vogel, a Hammondsport high school student. The date for the run of this show will be tentatively March 4 through September 5, 2016.

Exhibits and displays – I'd like to thank shop volunteers, Ray Poehlein and Jimmy Mitchell, for painting and assembling the bases of the quilt show porch posts. They look great and were a hit at the show. Rick Carcano is building additional vitrines for the museum to exhibit some fantastic items we have recently received and I'm in the process of creating more wall displays for the Seaplane Wall exhibit to add a multitude of smaller related items that have been in archives for many years. We have received a large number of old bedsheets to date and still can use a few more for the tentative winter construction project. If you should have any to donate, please contact me at the museum. We still need a lot of them.

2015 has been a very successful year so far and I've got a feeling 2016 will be just as great! Thank you all for making us a destination that can't be missed!



↑ Just one of our fabulous new roomboxes on display this year -
Guitar Grille, built by Sue McGoun

REMINDER - NO MUSEUM YARD SALE IN 2016

Due to time and space concerns - we will not be holding museum indoor yard sales until further notice.

Thanks to all who have contributed in the past and special thanks to those helpers who came to mark items and to man the sales table on yard sale day!

Contributions are always welcome at the Salvation Army store in Bath and the Once Again Shop in Penn Yan.

NEW MEMBERS

Sponsor

Mark & Sara Nickerson
Robert & Mary Ann Janda

Contributor

Woody & Gretchen Daugherty
Mark & Linda Schmidt
Allan C. Johnson
David Heath
Joan & Ted Mayer
George & Sharon Kahn
Lewis & Kathie Sheradin
Paula & Steven Gustafson
Joe Rosiczowski
Shawna & Patrick Predham
Joyce Wiedrich
James Fiorillo
R.A. Morse
Barbara Fowler
Mary Ann & Robert Robinson
Samuel Fox
Sandra Willmott
Matt & Aimee Nesbitt
Paul Greer
Michael Shinnors
Mary Worth & Dyke Smith
Raymond Lewis
Ken & Joan Rainis

Basic

David & Pam Redden
Dr. H. Denny Taylor
Richard Stevens

MEMBERSHIP UPGRADES

Sponsor

Roy & Sandy Hepler
Robert & JoAnn Cole

Supporting

Ross & Donna Rolls
John Wilder
Kyle & Jennifer Bower
Vic & Tena Nippert
Tom Cheney
John & Jan Reidenbaugh
Richard & Carolyn Clouser

Contributing

Bill & Alise Mahr
Liz Turissini
Barbara Morten

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Web: www.glennhcurtissmuseum.org



LATE FALL 2015



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

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Permit No. 6
Hammondsport, NY

Curtiss Museum Membership Form

Please check the membership category of your choice and return to:

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

My name(s) as it is to appear in printed matter : _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

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.