



ECHOES OF THE BELLRINGER



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The picture below is one model 47-H helicopter heading down Jefferson Street toward Buffalo, NY. Phil McClure has done a terrific job of restoration and spent countless hours and miles in doing so.



Friends, Friends, Friends by Linda Cochran

Did you know that the Bell Aircraft Museum has been operating from the beginning by volunteers? These people receive no pay except the joy of accomplishment. Not many communities have the opportunity to honor an aviation pioneer such as Lawrence D. Bell. Yet because of dedicated people giving their time and talents, Bell Aircraft Museum has grown. We continually need volunteers for framing and restoring pictures, developing display areas, restoring helicopters and as tour guides to have the Museum open more hours. Volunteers are considered "friends" of the Museum. Won't you be a friend and spend some time with us?

Medtronic Donation

Medtronic Sofamor Danek Mfg. donated funds to help increase display areas. Bell Museum appreciates their contribution and support.

PRA

The Popular Rotocraft Association held their annual convention at Mentone, the first week of August this year. Bell Museum personnel and friends helped collect admission fees and parked cars. Many PRA members visited the Museum during the week. We appreciate their encouraging support.

Helicopter On Wheels

Paul Faltyn from Buffalo, NY and President Gerald Romine are pictured to the right. They are shaking hands and transferring title papers for our model 47-H helicopter.

Open House by Sue Pyle

An open house for the Bell Aircraft Museum was held on May 19, 2007. A brief program included Billy Steele as speaker, Ed Rock sang two patriotic songs and Orabelle Meredith spoke on behalf of the Mentone Chamber of Commerce.

Over 100 visitors toured the museum. Highlights of their tour included the new hangar section containing Bell's exact personal museum that was in his Buffalo home, the X-1 corner display, two 47-H helicopters and a 47-G helicopter with stretchers that were made at Frank Manufacturing in Mentone.

Visitors during the open house were able to see additional artifacts and memorabilia that had been in storage prior to the hangar addition.

The original museum building now contains Mentone history and memorabilia. Open house visitors expressed interest in this section also. The open house was intended to show what has been done, what needs to be done, and all of the possibilities and potential of the Bell Aircraft Museum.



Indebted to Larry Bell

by Janet Rose Reed



I grew up in Mentone, Indiana, the only child of Bob and Nell Reed, who owned the Reed Funeral Home. My parents were hoping and encouraging me to attend college in

the mid 50's, but I was not very keen on the idea. I loved math but could not picture myself teaching in a classroom. Unfortunately that seemed to be my only inevitable destiny. Little did I know what lay ahead.

About my junior year in high school, Larry Bell came to Mentone to talk to the alumni. My parents, because they had the space, were asked if they would have a reception for him after the alumni banquet.

This became a turning point in my life. During the course of the evening Mr. Bell walked up to me, the only adolescent there, and we had a wonderful conversation. He seemed truly interested in knowing my plans after high school. He listened intently and suggested that I pursue an engineering career in aeronautics. He said, **"If you go to Purdue and become an Aeronautical Engineer I will hire you the day you graduate".***

What is an engineer? I thought he was joking. A woman engineer at that time was virtually unheard of, but I could not resist the challenge. I went to Purdue, enrolled in Aeronautical Engineering and was on my way. The aeronautical field proved to be too theoretical for my logistical mind and I switched to Civil Engineering. I have had a life-long career in a field that I loved.

I owe much of my success to Larry Bell who was extremely influential in exposing me to a whole new life experience. Without his encouragement, the support of my parents, my relatives, and my friends, I never would have dreamed of such an exciting and rewarding career.

I shall always be indebted to Larry Bell.

Janet Rose Reed

*Bell employed 18,000 at that time.

President's Comments

by Gerald Romine

Please read the article on the opposite page about the Rolls-Royce engine.

The Mentone area is coming along nicely, we are still collecting things of historic significance. Do you have an item or a story? We are collect-

ing things as small as a matchbook to as large as an aircraft.

Ozzie York visited our Museum, see article to the right about Ozzie.

Steve Rogers repaired one of Larry's models of a production helicopter and it is now in Larry's apartment showcase. (the model is pictured in the lower right corner of the opposite page)

After reading *Indebted to Larry Bell*, you will not have doubts about the character of Larry Bell.

One of our restored Model 47-H helicopters is on its way to Buffalo, N.Y. Read the article on opposite page. Additional parts are needed for our Model 47-H, but thanks to Phil it is well on its way to complete restoration.

We are seeking money and an artist to restore oil paintings. If you know someone who could do this, please contact us. Woodworkers are needed to finish walls so pictures can be mounted.

Our Museum is open by appointment or when someone is working there. Stop in and say hello, we are never too busy to talk to interested people.

Gerry White has donated his time, expertise, posters/pictures and some shelving.

Max Good matted and framed a picture.

Other items on the list of needs: mannequins, landscapers, skilled people to update our flyers, craftsmen with framing and matt cutting skills.

We have Larry's apartment "museum"* restored exactly as it was when he was living, including carpet and furniture.

*From the *Larry* book:

Larry's secretary Irma Brooks had a display area set up for all of Larry's mementos and photos from his years in aviation. "It's my life," he said with a voice full of emotion. "It's my whole life."



Gerald Romine and Ozzie York

Ozzie York Visited Our Museum

Ozzie York is a helicopter pilot from Oklahoma. Gerald met Ozzie at a recent helicopter convention. Ozzie went to Camp Bell for training in the late 1940's to learn about helicopters and met Larry Bell while at helicopter school. Ozzie recently flew an *Aerospecial* helicopter.

Mentone History

by Linda Cochran

Larry frequently expressed nostalgia for his youth in Mentone. "Growing up in a small town has many virtues," he said. "It's a great source of knowledge."

Youngsters in a small town, "said Larry, "see a lot of things that in a city they wouldn't see. Everything is sort of camouflaged in the city, spread out and specialized, on the other block, or in some neighborhood where you never go."*

Thirty years ago when the Museum was dedicated, directors began planning a Mentone history area, but it was not possible because of lack of space. After years of collecting, many Mentone items of historical value are now on display: Pictures of people and places in years gone by, a coffin from the late 1890's, advertising gimmicks from businesses no longer in existence, a show case from the Shafer and Goodman drug store, a table with the inlaid plat of Mentone.

Items relating to Mentone are still being requested and accepted at the Museum. Sue Pyle is chairperson of the Mentone history committee and can be contacted by leaving a message at the Museum by calling 574-353-7318 or calling 574-353-7228.

* From the *Larry* book

Rolls-Royce Donates Engine

by Phil McClure

Billy Steele



Rolls-Royce of Indianapolis donated to the Museum a 250 series engine that is used in the Bell 206-L Long Ranger Helicopter.

Rolls-Royce acquired the Allison Engine Company based in Indianapolis, Indiana in 1995. The new company, Rolls-Royce Corporation, allowed Rolls-Royce to offer engines in virtually all market segments, from hel-

icopters to the largest widebody aircraft. Turboprops for civil aircraft are built by Rolls-Royce in North America, including the Model 250. In addition to the Model 250, the company manufactures the AE 1107 turboshaft, these engines power 5,300 civil turbine helicopters in North America, four times that of the nearest competitor.

Description:

The Rolls-Royce Model 250 engine is the leading powerplant in its class worldwide. First certified at a rating of 317 shp, continuous improvement programs have increased the latest version's rating to 715 shp. Virtually every turbine-powered light helicopter manufacturer produces an aircraft which offers one of the Rolls-Royce Model 250 engines. This fleet of engines has accrued in excess of 160 million flight hours on almost 29,000 engines delivered. The Model 250 product line enjoys selective integration of advanced turbine engine technology designed to make the Model 250 the most reliable, cost effective and durable engine in the world.



Billy, as a friend of the Museum has been helping us this past summer.

Billy was born in Murray, Kentucky and graduated from Calloway County High School and received an Associate in Arts and third year Bible Certificate from Freed-Hardeman College, Henderson, Tennessee. He received Bachelor of Arts degree from Oklahoma Christian College. He met and married Carole while at Oklahoma Christian College. Carole grew up in Colorado.

He served in the Air Force from December 1971 until December 1978. And Billy spent three of those years in the Philippines, where he and Carole were granted custody of two children for the purpose of adoption. Billy moved to Mentone in September of 1979 and began preaching for the Church of Christ. The Steeles are thankful to have been a part of this community since that time.



From left to right, Ruben Conley, Paul Faltyn, Gerald Romine, Lois Miller, Mary Boggs, Linda Cochran and Phil McClure.

Model 47-H Goes to Niagara

Phil McClure has done a tremendous job restoring the two helicopters we brought from Buffalo. As per the agreement one was restored and returned to Buffalo. We now have title to our own helicopter which will be our permanent display.



Very early Bell helicopter model.

LAWRENCE D. BELL *Aircraft* MUSEUM, INC.

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www.bellaircraftmuseum.com



Clutter Family Visits Museum

T.J. Clutter was born near Huntertown, Indiana on May 7, 1877. After high school, he taught in a one room school near Angola. He enlisted in the Army during the Spanish American war in 1898.

Bessie Bybee was from Mentone. She graduated from Huntington Business College and worked in Ft. Wayne. She rented a room in the home of Will and Carrie Clutter in Ft. Wayne. Thomas Jay Clutter, Will's younger brother came home from Rush Medical College in Chicago and met Bessie. In 1905 they were married in Mentone and Dr. Clutter set up a practice in Atwood. He made house calls with horse and buggy, in town or country and by day or by night. He dispensed medicine, pills, potions, delivered babies, performed minor surgery often sterilizing instruments in a kettle on the kitchen stove. In 1914 Dr. Clutter, Bessie and seven year old son Clayton moved to Mentone. Dr. Clutter's office was behind the present day Pill Box building. The Clutters lived in the house more recently owned by long time friend of the Museum, Jerry Hudson. Doc worked night and day during the 1918-1919 flu epidemic. Having purchased a car in 1913, he had several drivers so he could sleep between calls. During the depression he was often paid in chickens or potatoes or work. He never sent bills. Bessie died in November 1929. Doc later married Emma Goodman. Dr. Clutter passed away Dec. 24th 1950.



Sons and Daughter of Clayton Clutter L-R Joyce (Don) Logan, from Pacific Grove, California, Jay (Judy) Clutter from North Webster, IN and John (Delores) Clutter from Chicago, Illinois