

Society Affairs

By JAMES J. SLOAN, President

EARLY BIRDS SPARKLE AT A.K.H.S. ANNUAL MEETING

The Society's Sixth Annual Meeting was highlighted by a splendid turnout of the Early Birds, those pioneer aviators and aviatrixes who flew solo before 17 December 1916. On hand to hear Waldo Waterman described his "Fifty-Six Years in Fifty-Six Minutes" were many persons famous in the days before (and after) WW I. Headed by Carl T. Batts, First Vice-President of the Early Birds, there were Mrs. "Tiny" Brodwick, Ralph Carter, Robert G. Fowler, Howard Heindel, Horace Keane, Leo Kimball, Tony and Mrs. Stadlman, "Spence" Spencer, Ivan P. Wheaton, Forrest and Mrs. Wysong and Col. David Young. Each of them thoroughly enjoyed the brief reunion, and it was indeed a great pleasure to introduce these pioneers to the assembled Members and guests. Other very distinguished guests included Col. Arthur C. Goebel, Martin Jensen, Ed Unger and Max Holtzem. The introductions were made by Member Paul R. Matt.

It was "their night" for the Early Birds and the available time was all too short.

LEWIS CASEY, GERALD WHEELER ADDED TO THE BOARD

The short business session at the Sixth Annual Meeting was marked by two significant actions; the election of Members Casey and Wheeler to the Board of Directors, and a change in the date of the annual meeting.

The meeting was conducted by Executive Vice-President Roland L. Bliss. He submitted the report of the Operations Committee of the Board, describing progress made in the organizational and fiscal affairs of the Society during the past year. He called upon the Secretary, Mr. William A. Riley and the Treasurer, Mr. Harry S. Gann, for special sections of the Committee's report. The Membership stood at 2420 currently active Members as of 31 December 1964, according to Secretary Riley, and the year ended with an operating reserve of over \$7,000, as stated by Treasurer Gann. The Editor, Mr. Kenn C. Rust, gave a brief review of JOURNAL policy and future plans.

The slate of Directors nominated by the Board was submitted by the Secretary as follows:

Roland L. Bliss	John B. Rae
Lewis S. Casey	William A. Riley
Harry S. Gann	Kenn C. Rust
George A. Hardie	James J. Sloan
Walter M. Jefferies, Jr.	Gerald E. Wheeler
Harvey H. Lippincott	

After the process of conducting and closing of nominations, the above Members were unanimously elected to the Board of Directors, to serve until the next annual meeting. All of those named above were incumbents except Mr. Casey and Dr. Wheeler.

Lewis S. Casey, Member No. 436, is a curator of the National Air Museum and brings to his directorship a very keen interest in both the Society and aviation history. Recently published by the Government Printing Office is his Smithsonian Annals of Flight, Vol. 1, No. 1, concerning the Fokker T-2 and its transcontinental flight of 1923 by Lts John A. Macready and Oakley G. Kelly.

Dr. Gerald E. Wheeler was re-elected to the Board after an absence of two years, during which he spent a year at the University of Manila, Philippine Islands. He is currently back at his post in the Department of History, San Jose State College and is conducting the summer training session for Peace Corps volunteers. Dr.

Wheeler had been editor of this JOURNAL in 1959 and 1960.

By Resolution of the Members present, the month of the Annual Meeting was changed from July to December or January, specific date to be set by the Board; change effective January 1966. This action was recommended by the Board to enable the realignment of the fiscal affairs of the Society, the publication of the Winter issue and the Annual Meeting so that status of Society Affairs can be reported on a more immediate basis.

Immediately following the Annual Meeting, the Directors met briefly for election of officers. Re-elected were: Roland L. Bliss, Executive Vice-President; William A. Riley, Secretary; Harry S. Gann, Treasurer and James J. Sloan, President.

ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE OF A.A.H.S.

I wish to draw your attention to the little known, but extremely important side of A.A.H.S. affairs, that of management of the day-to-day functions. Directly following the Fifth Annual Meeting (1964) it was proposed that an Operations Committee of the Board of Directors be appointed to "keep the store", that is, execute the policies of the Board, and enable the members of the Board to consider and implement an overall program.

Under the outstanding leadership of Vice-President Bliss, the Committee has brought a very business-like approach to the Society's finances. The Committee consists of the Vice-President as chairman, the Secretary, Treasurer, Editor and Technical Editor and the President as ex-officio member. Although not all objectives were met in their first year of operations, the preparation and adoption of the annual budget has been a most important achievement.

Growth of the Membership has continued at a steady rate, marked each year by a seeming drop-off in the first quarter but coming back in the second and increasing notably in the third quarter. It appears that some Members forget that we are on a calendar year basis, with dues payable 1 January. They begin to realize somewhere in the second quarter that they did not receive the Spring JOURNAL and finally, toward mid-year the late ones struggle in. This causes a lot of extra work for the Secretary, but the dropouts are not at all permanent. Correspondence regarding membership should be addressed to the Secretary at P. O. Box 45-435, Los Angeles, California 90045.

The Operations Committee works closely with the Editor and Technical Editor in improving cost control, and executing the policies of the Board of Directors with regard to the JOURNAL. Since the JOURNAL is of the greatest interest to you, the Members, it is appropriate to once again emphasize that you should make your wishes known. Whether critical or complimentary, express your ideas. Your comments are invited and to get before the Operations Committee, these should be addressed to the Secretary. The Secretary will pass them to the Committee for discussion at regular meetings.

The Editor is the key man responsible for the preparation of text and layout of the JOURNAL. Drawing your attention to the Inside Front Cover of the JOURNAL, the "Information for Authors" note states that if you have an idea for an article write to the Editor and discuss it. However, you are invited to forward manuscripts, photographs and correspondence regarding articles of any size to the Editor without that preliminary discussion (which may be a roadblock to some). As we have said

before, grammar and rhetoric are irrelevant to the historic import, so don't be bashful.

For the several years of our existence, the Board of Directors has been not only 'directing' but also 'doing'. Although the present description of the Operations Committee shows each member with two hats, participation of the entire Board in the routine membership, financial and editorial affairs has been reduced to a minimum. The Board is now addressing itself to the need for long-range planning and the Operations Committee may in future be freed from wearing two hats as we obtain more interested and qualified personnel. The key word here is "interested", for as we all know, like church, scouting, PTA, or any other civic endeavor, only a few are interested enough to do the work.

The Board is also considering ways to increase the Member-to-Member and Member-to-Society rapport, so desirable among people of mutual interests. Awards, roster, lapel pins, membership cards, stationery, honorary and lifetime memberships and many other items have come under discussion and direction will be given to each.

The Regional Vice-Presidents are taking an increasingly important role and we have, for the first time, printed the addresses of each on the Inside Front Cover. You are invited to increase your participation as a Member of the Society by attending regional meetings. Write to your Regional Vice-President for information. Two years ago a plan for the development of regional quarterly meetings was adopted by the Board, patterned after the very successful programs of the Miami Valley (Dayton) Aero Historians. Its No. 1 purpose is to stimulate interest in aviation history, but valuable by-products of the meetings are the tape recordings, speeches and papers by aviation personalities and historical researchers. Significant selections from these papers are chosen for presentation in the JOURNAL of the A.A.H.S., the Wingfoot L-T-A Bulletin and, it is hoped, the journals of other societies. The plan is enjoying considerable success.

In summary, to make this Society "go", it needs the concern of each of its Members. We, the Officers and Directors are interested in your suggestions to make the JOURNAL, the Regional meetings and 'the fraternity' if you please, more valuable to you.

NORTHEAST AERO HISTORIANS MEET OCTOBER 15-17

The Connecticut Aeronautical Historical Assn will host the regional meeting at Hartford in October, which will include representatives from, besides the A.A.H.S. and the C.A.H.A., the Long Island Early Flyers Club, the N. Y. State Aviation Historical Assn, the Society of World War I Aero Historians and the Wingfoot Lighter Than Air Society. There are few changes from the program announced in the Summer JOURNAL (page 143) by Harvey H. Lippincott, Chairman of the organizing committee, except that the Prop & Wing Club did not feel that it was an aviation history group and will participate only informally through its individual members. The guest speaker for the Saturday evening banquet has not been firmed up, but aside from this the program is as follows:

Friday Night - October 15 at the Hartford Club, downtown.
8:00 P.M. Cocktail and social hour
9:00 P.M. Hollywood motion picture film on aviation.

Saturday - October 16th, the Hartford Club
9:00 A.M. Registration, social hour, exhibit viewing.
10:00 A.M. Welcome address
10:15 A.M. Lecture - "Gustave Whitehead - Father of Connecticut Aviation" by William J. O'Dwyer
11:00 A.M. Lecture "Color and Camouflage - the Decoration of WW I Aircraft" by Paul Parker.
11:45 A.M. Lecture "Researching the Fabulous Lockheeds" by Richard Sanders Allen

12:30 P.M. Gather for lunch, social.

1:00 P.M. Luncheon - Speaker - S. Paul Johnston, Dir. National Air & Space Museum, Smithsonian Institution. Subject: "The New National Air & Space Museum".

2:30 P.M. Paper - "Louis Lauriat, Pioneer New England Balloonist", by Rev. Nathaniel P. Lauriat (WLTAS)

3:15 P.M. Early Flyers Panel Discussion, Long Island Early Flyers Club. Cmdr Edward P. Brennan, USNR (Ret), President and panel chairman. Preston R. Bassett, panel moderator.

Panelists: Clarence A. DeGiers, Beckwith Havens, Roland Rohlfis and Ernest P. Cross.

5:00 P.M. Tour of Constitution Plaza, Hartford's new downtown redevelopment project.

6:30 P.M. Cocktails and social hour.

7:30 P.M. Banquet. Guest speaker, a nationally prominent aviation personality.

Sunday - October 17th

9:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M. Open house and Historical Aircraft and Automobile Display at C.A.H.A. Facility, Bradley Field, Windsor Locks, Conn. including about 20 airplanes, balloons, helicopters and VTOL from 1912 to 1960, plus engines, components and relics.

Each sponsoring organization will provide its own announcements to local members, with mailings to be sent out about 1 September.

WESTERN REGIONAL MEETING-DECEMBER 28

Final details of the Western Regional Meeting to be held in San Francisco Bay Area on December 28th are being arranged and the full program will be announced in the Winter issue of the JOURNAL. Additions are being made to the program outlined in the Summer JOURNAL under the direction of Regional Vice-President E. T. Smallwood.

EDITOR ADVANCES JOURNAL PUBLICATION DATE

It should be noted that the Winter issue of the JOURNAL will be published by 1 December this year, an objective long desired but which will be achieved this year for the first time by our diligent Editor. The timing has several important advantages; being just prior to the Christmas mail rush, and within the year 1965, plus enabling timely announcement of the Annual Meeting. We congratulate the Editor.

ADDITIONAL NOTES

It must be repeated that your Zip Code will be required on all mailings in bulk, such as the JOURNAL, by the first of 1967. Don't wait to send yours in to the Secretary.

COMING EVENTS:

National Championship Air Races, Reno, Nev. Sept. 30th - Oct. 3rd.

Northeast Aero Historians Meeting, October 15-17.

Western Regional Meeting, December 28, see above.

Seventh Annual Meeting, A.A.H.S., date and place to be announced in Winter JOURNAL.

Dedication, History of Aviation Collection, Univ. of Texas, November 19-20.

Doug Pirus is in the final throes of compiling a ten-year index of the JOURNAL. This comprehensive index will be of great value to all historians. A preliminary look at the rough drafts indicates the vast amount of reference, source material published within these pages in the last ten years. Member Doug Pirus is to be congratulated on this monumental task.