

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dr. GERALD E. WHEELER, President, A.A.H.S.

It is a pleasure to greet fellow Members of the Society as President, a responsibility and a signal honor that have been conferred by your Board of Directors in accordance with the Society's elective processes. The nature of the responsibility is evident when one reads the history of our Society in this volume's lead article prepared by our past President, J. J. Sloan. Our Members have produced some 3000 pages of aviation history--a superb achievement. At the same time the A.A.H.S. has developed a dedicated volunteer corporate board which, through sharing of the administrative tasks, has found a workable means to assist the Society to grow and prosper. We sincerely hope the board will continue to operate so splendidly; I pledge my time and interest to the furtherance of its mission.

The 3000 pages of aviation history mentioned above highlight the history goals of the near and distant future that the Society should seek to achieve. The age of pioneer aviation is passing swiftly from us, the jet age has arrived, and space travel now contends for the news headlines. In the immediate future we must actively pursue the recording of oral history, guide the retention and disposition of the personal records and memorabilia of aviation people who pioneered powered flight, and assist in the preservation of the artifacts of the pre-space flight age in proper museums. In the long run, as writers and researchers, we must develop historical interpretations of the events of this age of flight; and we must continue our study of past achievements in order to correct and up-date our developing interpretations. Obviously time does not stand still, neither does the interpretation of an historical era.

The recent Board of Directors meeting (January 1966) demonstrated that our administrative procedures, in the very capable hands of the Operations Committee, have be-

come almost routine and we are meeting expenses, with a modest operating reserve. Plans are underway to bring to the Members additional publications as time permits.

It is to the production of articles for the JOURNAL that we Members must especially address ourselves in the forthcoming months. The Editor, Mr. Kenn Rust, reports that considerable headway is being made in the various Research Projects. In reviewing the growing list of projects (see page 73) it appears that much history will come to light in these pages in the years ahead.

The publication of the JOURNAL is basic to the existence of the Society, since in it we find the visible results of researches by Society Members. All of us should be alert to opportunities to show this to prospective members. The person-to-person membership campaign is still a vital part of our growth as a Society. Increased emphasis will be put on this aspect of our operations, particularly through the Regional Vice-Presidents.

Attention will also be given to the extension of the inter-society meetings. It is our earnest desire to cooperate at all levels of endeavor in the common cause of developing aviation history. Plans are proceeding well for regional multi-group gatherings in Seattle, the Midwest, and Washington, D.C. this year. In August we will again participate in the Annual Meeting of the Pacific Coast Branch of the American Historical Association, to be held at Reed College in Portland, Oregon. It is my personal hope, as a professional historian, that our Society will cooperate even more closely in the future with this nation's great historical societies. It is through the professional historians that our findings enter the classrooms of the country's schools. It is in the classroom that our children can learn to appreciate the heritage of flight that is ours. And it is a grand and glorious heritage.

SOCIETY AFFAIRS

SEVENTH ANNUAL MEETING - OAKLAND

The evolution of Douglas commercial aircraft from the Cloudster to the DC-9 was described by Member Harry S. Gann, Jr. in the Annual Address to the Society on January 29, 1966. His illustrated lecture, entitled "The Spread of World Commerce Through Aviation", was oriented to the long line of Douglas Company aircraft and particularly to that ageless DC-3, the "Gooney Bird", the Dakota or C-47 of world-wide fame.

Pre-prints of Mr. Gann's paper were available at the meeting, including text and extensive drawings of significant designs in the long "family tree". A series of beautiful 35mm color slides showed many of these, ending with the latest long-fuselage configuration of the DC-8.

Member Gann is also Treasurer of the Society, and has been for many years in the Products Marketing Division of Douglas, a unique position from which to view the giant strides in technological development made in commercial aviation in past decades.

The Seventh Annual Meeting was held in the evening

in the Hunt Room at Oakland International Airport Terminal and, despite considerable rain and high winds, over 100 Members and guests were present. Most had gathered ahead of the scheduled start of the meeting, for a social hour and dinner. Near the end of the banquet the distinguished guests were assembled by the art exhibit for photographs and for the filming of brief scenes to be included in a documentary film on aviation being prepared by Station KRON-TV.

E. T. Smallwood, Regional Vice-President and Program Chairman, introduced the guests: Charles F. "Slim" West, formerly with the Gates Flying Circus; Colonel Roger Q. Williams, USAF (Ret), pilot of the Bellanca monoplane which flew from Maineto Spain in July 1929, setting a new world's record for overwater flying; Burr Winslow, pioneer air mail pilot, retired airline captain, and member of many pioneer aviator organizations, James S. Barton, veteran motion picture stunt pilot, Carl Bigelow, retired flying news photographer; Mrs. Juanda Bigelow, his wife and member of the Ninety-Nines; James A. Brown, well-known aircraft engine collector and rebuild-er; Harold E. Rosenquist, early Curtiss-Wright Flying

Service representative and Ethel Jean Kibbe, early aviatix. RV-P Smallwood ("Smally") himself was a veteran of movie flying, having participated in the filming of "Hell's Angels" as well as being a C-W base operator.

RV-P Smallwood next asked Willis L. Nye to make the introduction of the Honored Guest. Robert G. Fowler, now in his 80s and very erect, came to the speaker's stand after Mr. Nye recited a long list of accomplishments: first man to fly across the United States from West to East, founder of the L.W.F. Corp. (Lowe-Willard-Fowler), and others too numerous to recount here. Mr. Fowler described a recent flight in a Boeing 707, and allowed that "aviation is here to stay". A standing ovation was accorded this grand old gentleman of aviation as he returned to his table.

The Annual Meeting was officially opened for the business session by the retiring President, James J. Sloan, who called upon the Officers present for specific reports. Executive Vice-President Roland L. Bliss reviewed very briefly the work of the Operations Committee during the past year. Secretary William A. Riley reported that the active membership in the Society stood at 2895 as of calendar year-end 1965. This included 17 life memberships. Treasurer Harry S. Gann stated that the operating reserve, as of December 31, 1966, stood at \$2733. Editor Penn C. Rust described the current planning for the Eleventh Year of JOURNAL publication.

Proceeding next to the annual election of Directors of the Society, the Secretary read the names of the slate nominated by the Board, being all of the incumbent Directors. The President gave a brief review of the qualifications of each one so nominated, both present and absent, and then called for nominations from the floor. There being none, after motion duly made, seconded and unanimously carried, the nominations were closed. A second motion duly made, seconded and approved, carried the election of Directors for the year 1966. These are:

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

There being no further business to come before the



JOURNAL Editor Kenn C. Rust addressing Annual Meeting

SPRING - 1966



Dr. Gerald E. Wheeler, elected President of the A.A.H.S. is congratulated by retiring Prexy, James J. Sloan.

Annual Meeting, the business session was adjourned and Mr. Gann was introduced for the presentation of the Annual Address.

The entire meeting was conducted in an atmosphere of warmth and friendliness, enhanced by the presence of the honored and distinguished guests, the delicious dinner and the surrounding exhibit of paintings of artist Ray Beste. These included water colors of aircraft of all periods from WW I types to the latest jets. The final portion of the entertainment was the showing of some early aviation films by the Program Chairman and genial host, RV-P Smallwood.

OFFICERS ELECTED - DR. WHEELER PRESIDENT

The Organization Meeting of Directors, elected to serve in the calendar year 1966, was held immediately following the Annual Meeting at Oakland International Air Terminal. The officers elected by the Board to serve in the same period are:

Or. Gerald E. Wheeler, President
 Roland L. Bliss, Executive Vice-President
 William A. Riley, Secretary
 Harry S. Gann, Jr., Treasurer

In the article at the beginning of this issue of the JOURNAL, the lengthy participation of each of these men in the management of the Society over several years is described and need not be elaborated upon here. Dr. Wheeler, upon assuming the office of President, announced the reappointment of the Regional Vice-Presidents as follows:

- Region 1 - California, Nevada - E. T. Smallwood
- Region 2 - Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Montana, Colorado - Gordon S. Williams
- Region 4 - North and South Dakota, Nebraska, Kansas - Ross S. Fenn
- Region 5 - Texas, Oklahoma, Arkansas, Louisiana - Mitch Mayborn
- Region 6 - Minnesota, Wisconsin, Iowa, Illinois, Missouri - Fred C. Dickey, Jr.
- Region 7 - Michigan, Indiana, Ohio, Kentucky - Bergen F. Hardesty
- Region 9 - Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia and West Virginia and the District of Columbia - Harold Andrews
- Region 10 - A) New England States, New York and New Jersey - Ernest W. Robischon