

NOTES FROM THE CORRESPONDENCE FILE

The Secretary receives much correspondence from members and others seeking information about aviation topics, pilots, aircraft, events or particular facts. The other side of the story is that these same people are actually doing things, interviewing pioneer airmen, rebuilding airplanes, and finding new data. This column is written from the correspondence pile, telling who is doing what in the field of aeronautical history.

We have a riddle about the Bellanca "Miss Columbia". R.G. Moulton, Asst Editor of AEROMODELLER wrote asking for information on the airplane. We "volunteered" a committee, of which Member Greg Kohn is apparently the most informed. He dug into records and personal contacts but can find no answer as to why the traditional Bellanca squared wing tips were later changed to rounded tips with greatly increased span. What say You?

Ed Maloney discovered a Boeing P-26 in South America! He had it freighted up here and now has it installed in the Air Museum at Claremont, Calif.....Fred Piest of 1702 Winona Ave., Chicago 40, has access to microfilmed files of all Chicago newspapers from a very early date, will do any research on these on request. He wants pictures of early Chicago aviation history.....Roy Knabenshue, the early balloon pilot (used to race balloons around a race track with Lincoln Beachey) has a wonderful film he made all over, literally, Chicago in 1906. 35mm, it runs about 30 minutes.

The Journal has now been installed in the Army Library at the Pentagon..... Member Trevor Allen writes from England that he's like prints from USAF photo files. It's easy, one just has to send money, and wait. Prints are still 55¢ for an 8 x 10. Address: Wright Air Development Center, Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio, Attn: Public Information Branch (WCHV), Mr. Lewis Zarem. Payment in advance by Postal M.O. to "Treasurer of the U.S." List photo by negative number if possible. (See AAHS Journal Vol 1, pages 73 and 181).

Col G.B. Jarrett, who used to have the Jarrett Museum on Steel Pier in Atlantic City, is now head of the Ordnance Museum at Aberdeen, Md. His recent search uncovered a beautiful movie of the German Albatross D.III, from cutting the lumber clear through final assembly, test hop and crating for delivery to the front. He and Maj. Kimbrough Brown have also produced a 45 minute movie of the life of von Richthofen.....Frank Smith of the Royal Aeronautical Society (England) says that the Society has a very comprehensive collection of data on Octave Chanute, including many letters from him.

Jack Canary has a fine R.A.F. 1A engine (dating from 1916), also several Le Rhone, Hisso and other WWI types. His Sopwith "Snipe" is near completion, needs only enough time for Jack to get down to covering the fuselage, and final assembly. He keeps finding more old parts, recently helped Members Al Kiefer and R.T. Hood find some more parts for the JN4-D they are rebuilding. They got a usable stabilizer, rudder, elevator, fuselage frame, 3 sets of OX-5 engine parts, landing gear, inter-plane struts and 3 fuel tanks in a vineyard in Madera, California.

Bill Riley and Warren Bodie are compiling a history of U.S. Naval aircraft for publication, have the layout and format established and many photographs..... Members Paul Poberenzy, George Hardy, and Leo Kohn are leading lights in the publication of the EXPERIMENTER, journal of the Experimental Aircraft Association.

The current issue of the OX-5 Club WINGDING mentions Louise Thaden, George Haldeman, and Col. John P. Richter, famous during the 1925-35 glamour era. Member Roy Cross, a technical artist whose work has been widely published offers to exchange custom made paintings for photos, books and technical data for use in his work.

Last but not least, all members please note that annual dues of \$5.00 are renewable on 1 January 1958.

James J. Sloan, Secretary