

In Memoriam

Dave Fox

1920-1980

Dave Fox lived in the air—the earth was a place to land and refuel.

On September 27 at Kingston Airport, Kingston, N.Y., while flight testing an Osprey II, an E.A.A. home-built design for a friend, Dave Fox's ubiquitous aviation career ended abruptly with an unexplained crash. Conjecture has led to propeller failure since no remains of the prop have been located.

After burial at the family plot in Waxahachie, Texas, a memorial service was held October 11 at "Old Rhinebeck" airdrome where Dave had been flying for Cole Palen for the past 22 years. Most every aviation organization was represented in the audience of 250 with the AAHS represented by F.B.O. John Nagel of Nagel Aircraft in Torrance, CA, and AAHS member Bill MacKenzie, who had been scheduled to visit Fox. A written tribute from the AAHS was read in recognition of Dave's many contributions to the preservation of aviation history. Due to limited visibility, the aerial "flyby" had to be postponed until the following day's airshow. However, a single airman braved the elements in a daring salute to the intrepid Fox.

His talents had the rare combination of superior pilot expertise and engineering knowledge. His credits included Commercial, Instrument, and Flight Instructor ratings. Dave had been flying one airplane or another since 1921, when his first ride was on his father's lap in a "Jenny."



The Smithsonian recognized his expertise where he lectured on the "History of Aircraft Control Development." He usually flew a group of "buffs" to the annual EAA fly-in and he was a tireless member of the NE Aero Historians.

The AAHS is particularly grateful for Dave's dedication in researching the flight characteristics of the June Bug II through his close association with the late Charles F. Willard. As a result, we were able to publish in the AAHS *Journal* (Vol. 23, No. 3, pp. 173-181) a complete documentation of the construction and flight characteristics of the June Bug II, plus authentic plans of the original June Bug of 1908, heretofore never published.

His efforts to record on tape live interviews of the experiences of such pioneers as Willard and Clayton J. Brukner, co-

founder of Waco, has been of inestimable value to such organizations as ours.

He appeared on TV on June 15, 1980, on John Denver's special, "The Higher We Fly" in which "Old Rhinebeck" was featured.

Our recognition would not be complete without a salute to his close association of 22 years with Cole Palen and the development of "Old Rhinebeck." In his capacity as a key aerodrome pilot he was able to utilize all of his talents. No doubt his great flying ability made many of the pioneer aircraft star performers. Likewise, his expertise, camaraderie and leadership must have been a significant factor in assisting Cole in assembling the greatest World War I flying collection and airshow.

Dave Fox, we salute you and may your memory live forever.