

Do You Remember?



Clyde Hauger Jessie Dunn Collection

The Donegal Airstrip

Back in the 1920s, when 17-year-old Clyde Hauger's Donegal Borough peers were fantasizing about getting their hands on the wheel of a jalopy, he had a loftier goal in mind. He'd been taking flying lessons over at Long-view Flying Field in Latrobe and he wanted to own his own plane.

Much to the dismay of his neighbors, who preferred peace and quiet, his dream soon came to fruition in the form of an Eagle Rock biplane. Following several spirited discussions (in regard to the noise) he graciously deferred to the insistent voices clamoring around him and, with the help of his father, moved his hanger to the Freeman Ulery farm in Donegal Township outside of town.

Over the course of his all too brief career, the fearless young daredevil did it all: barnstormed, wing-walked, barrel rolled, looped the loop to the delight of his now adoring fans whose feet remained safely on the ground. He delivered the mail, swooping terrifyingly low over a jerry-built clothesline contraption. It was dangerous work. Out of the original forty air-mail pilots, thirty-one were killed in crashes -- many of them here on the perilous windswept heights of the Chestnut Ridge.

In 1941, he became a commercial pilot for All American Aviation and, rising thru the ranks, trained Brazilian pilots in Rio de Janeiro. Together with Lloyd Santmyer, of Mount Pleasant, he founded the Greensburg City Airport on Carbon Hill.

Then, on a cold wintry day in January 1957, he was flying Bruno Ferrari's twin-engine Beechcraft back from Florida when he hit into an icy patch of bad weather over Charleston, West Virginia. He tried for an emergency landing on a snow-covered hillside. Forced landings had been his cup of tea. He had walked away from 13 other such cliff-hangers before. Unfortunately, not this time. The plane came in on its belly and burst into flames on impact. Clyde was just 47 years old when he died.

To learn more about Hauger and the fascinating exploits of his fellow local aviation pioneers, see Richard

Wissolik's *A Place in the Sky* on sale at fine bookstores everywhere.

-- Eileene Rose

Gifts and Donations

- *Camp Wildwood, Wigwam Tribe of Camp Wildwood & Camp Pleasant*--Will Scarlett, Mill Run.
- 1915 deed from Thomas & Elizabeth McLean to Indian Creek Valley Railway--Bill Hofelt, Huntingdon.
- Milk bottles: Ligonier Dairy Products, Mountain Top Co-op, Rhoda-Den dairy farm; Ligonier Beverage 7oz soft drink bottle with cork; calendar from White's Gen. Store, Bear Rocks--Alvin Kantorik, Mount Pleasant Township.
- Donegal Elementary School Photos 1959-60; *My School Friends* album 1958-59, 1960-61--Tom Dix, Jones Mills.
- WWII news clip--Joyce Springer, Ligonier.
- Two vintage photos of Kecksburg--Stewart Shaffer, Mount Pleasant Township.
- *Fuller Family History*--Robert Fuller, Scottdale.
- Jones Mills 200th anniversary 8mm video cassette--Cecelia Hauger, Stahlstown.
- Obituary & memorial cards--Ethel Keslar, Donegal.
- *Steer/Stairs/Albert/Freeman Family History*; 12 yearbooks; 14 Stairs photos; news clips--Catherine Stairs, Oklahoma.
- Galvanized steel ballot box from Four Mile Run Precinct--Floyd Snyder, Sr., Stahlstown.

Old Business

The "Bakeless Bake Sale" was a whopping success to the tune of \$525. Non-perishable sweets- -in the form of cold hard cash- -are still being accepted. Baby keeps a roof over its head. Thank you!

New Business

New winter hours at the Center are now in effect: Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Wednesdays by appointment. Call: 724-593-2497 or 724-423-5731.

New Members

Geoffrey Murray, Champion, Pa.
Lois Kinneer, Hurricane, W.Va.

Now You Know



Submitted photo

Today two pussy-cats and a poodle own her. She's CRHS member Sue Craig Reese from Point Pleasant, New Jersey.