

Stainless steel plane returns to birth place — Bristol

By PAT SMITH
Courier Times Staff Writer
(First of a series)

The Seabird has come home to Bristol.

Saturday afternoon an old man was walking down a Bristol street when he heard an airplane engine overhead. He looked up and couldn't believe his eyes.

It was the Seabird making a low pass over its birth place. The man had worked at the old Fleetwing plant and helped build the plane — in 1936.

The man hurried out to 3M airport to see if the plane would land there. What followed at the airport was an emotion-packed reunion of old men, pioneers in their day, and one of the triumphs of their youth, the Seabird.

After 35 years

There it was, back home after 35 years and thousands of miles of



travel. Brought back to life after 10 years in a junk heap by a man who is himself something out of another era, Channing Clark.

The saga of the Seabird began 40 years ago with Charles F. DeGanahl, who founded Fleetwing and moved the plant to Bristol in 1934. He and his son, Carl, had an idea that stainless steel could be made as light as aluminum, yet stronger, and used in airplanes.

The art of aluminum production had not been fully developed

in those days and the metal had corroded quickly when subjected to the elements, especially salt water.

After years of designing and testing, the younger DeGanahl saw his dream come true with the production of the first production model all-stainless steel airplane. It was a single-winged four-passenger seaplane with the engine mounted over the wing.

Finished in 1936

It was serial no. 1 of the F-401 model and the manufacturer's plate says it was completed Sept. 2, 1936. It was the Seabird and in the fall of that year it rolled down the ramp from the Fleetwing plant into the Delaware River for tests.

Five other models, modifications of the original, were produced. They were designed for millionaire sportsmen and the original hosted Howard Hughes and Wallace Berry on some interesting escapades.

Four of the planes have long since departed and one is in Florida but it will never fly again. The DeGanahls are dead and Fleetwing is no more. Thomas Lavelle, who headed the Seabird project for Fleetwing, is now president of Lavelle Aircraft Corp. in Newtown and still has many Fleetwing veterans working for him.

John Schepp of Washington's Crossing was the chief mechanic on the project and flew in the first test flight of the Seabird.

"I don't remember the date but I'll never forget the day," said the white-haired Schepp who is retired but still very active.

Seabird was Louisiana where the plane flew in and out of the bayous for an oil-drilling firm.

Goes To War

The Seabird went to war with the rest of the country in 1941. It was used by the Civil Air Patrol to fly anti-sub patrols over the Gulf of Mexico.

After the war, the trial be-

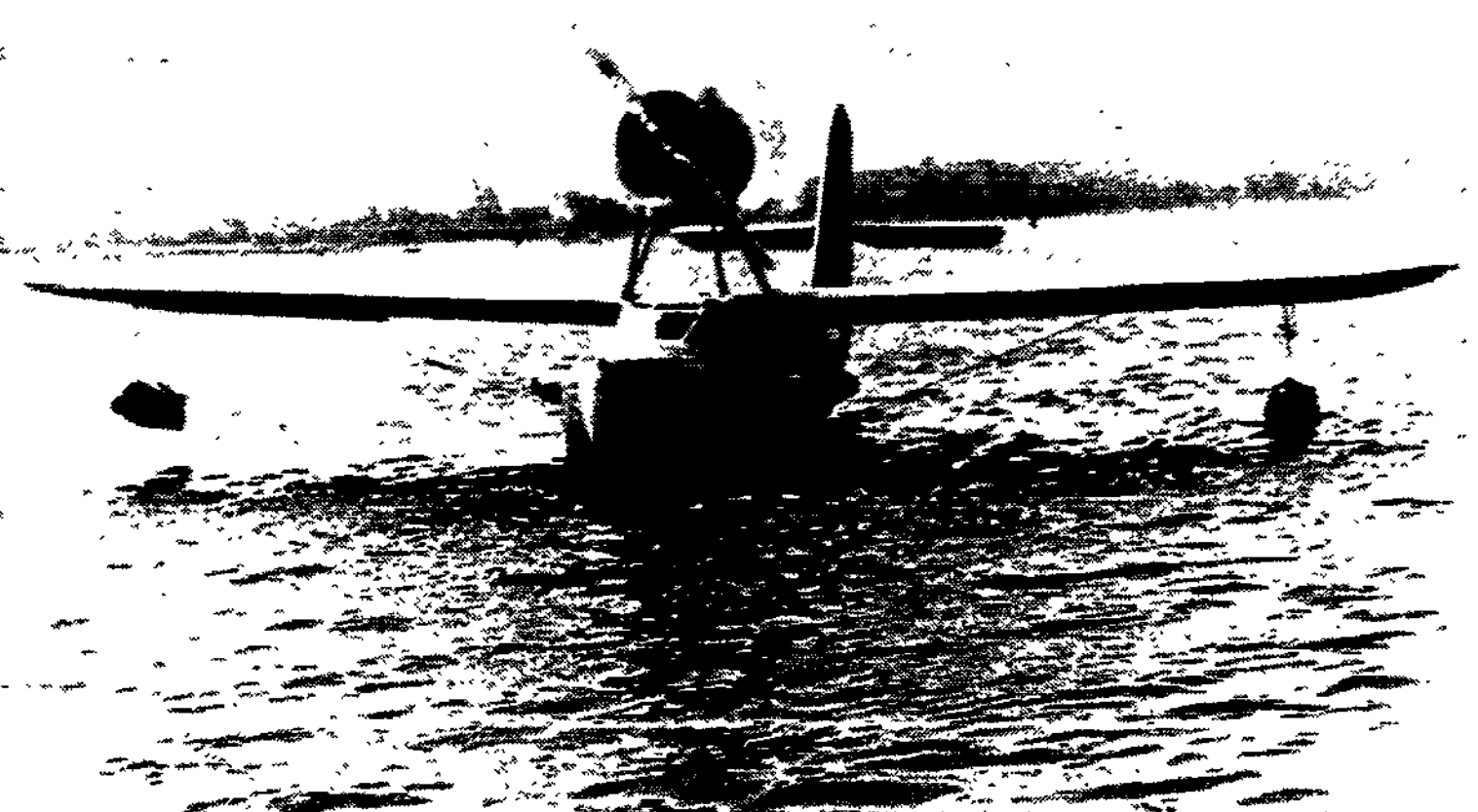
comes cloudy but the plane was reported in Indiana in 1948. By 1950 she was lying on a scrap heap in Los Angeles and there she lay until Channing Clark saw her.

fell in love with her and determined to get her.

Tomorrow: Channing Clark and his 10-year fight to save the Seabird.

fell in love with her and determined to get her.

Tomorrow: Channing Clark and his 10-year fight to save the Seabird.



THE SEABIRD DURING WATER TESTS ON THE DELAWARE RIVER IN 1936

... after 35 years she came back from the dead to visit her birthplace

Bucks picks 2 educators as directors of projects

The Bucks County Public Schools, Intermediate Unit Number 22, has appointed Raymond Greer and Daniel Evans as project directors of the Occupational-Transitional Education Program and the Supervised Independent Study Program respectively.

Greer will direct the activities of six curriculum specialists in developing career oriented curriculum materials for disadvantaged and handicapped youth. The curriculum specialists will be actively working as employees of business and industry's in the Bucks County area in order to obtain first-hand knowledge of the occupations themselves and develop a curriculum for these youth with special needs.

It is expected that these trained personnel will eventually become the instructors and program coordinators in the Bucks County Public Schools for occupational education for students who are disadvantaged and handicapped.

Greer comes to this position from Upper Bucks County Technical School where he served for one year as a teacher-in-training in a somewhat similar project. His previous experience includes secondary special education teacher in Flint, Mich., teacher and department chairman in special education in the Harrisburg Public Schools. He has his B.S. in Special



DANIEL H. EVANS



RAYMOND B. GREER

Education from California State College and his M.A. in Special Education from Michigan State University and is presently a doctoral candidate at Temple University. Greer is married and lives in New Britain.

Keep Dropout In School

Daniel Evans will be coordinating a program designed to keep the dropout in school and if unsuccessful in the effort, provide an alternate for the individual in order that he/she may receive a G.E. D. (Graduate Equivalent Diploma) as well as a program which would lead to employment.

Band camp begins Monday

Band camp will begin Monday at Log College Junior High School, Warminster.

Students who participate will do basic drill and march formations and read through new repertoire.

The camp, which will run 9 a.m. to noon, Monday through Friday, is open to eighth and ninth grade musicians and seventh graders who will enter Log College this year.

A fee of \$5 will be charged for each student at registration 8:30 a.m. Monday in the school.

cial Education from California State College and his M.A. in Special Education from Michigan State University and is presently a doctoral candidate at Temple University. Greer is married and lives in New Britain.

Keep Dropout In School

Daniel Evans will be coordinating a program designed to keep the dropout in school and if unsuccessful in the effort, provide an alternate for the individual in order that he/she may receive a G.E. D. (Graduate Equivalent Diploma) as well as a program which would lead to employment.

This program will be enhanced by the additional offerings of International Correspondence Schools who have a close working relationship with the Bucks Coun-

ty Public Schools for this specific program.

The cooperation with the International Correspondence School of Scranton, Pennsylvania increases the career curriculum offerings by some 2,000 courses available. Evans has had 20 years of experience in the United States Navy with the rank of Commander. He is a graduate of the United States Naval Academy at Annapolis and has his M.S. in personnel management from George Washington University.

He is formerly the vice-president of Triad Engineering and taught at Annapolis, Penn State, and George Washington University. He is married, has three children and resides in Chalfont.

PUC OKs reduced rate

HARRISBURG (UPI) — The Public Utility Commission Tuesday authorized a telephone rate reduction for 292 customers in the Hensel exchange of the Commonwealth Telephone Co., Dallas. The reduction becomes effective Sept. 11.

Park plans on agenda

Preliminary plans for an industrial park in Northampton Township will be considered tonight.

The township planning commission is scheduled to meet at 8 in the municipal building, Second St. Pike, Richboro, to consider plans for the Muscareo Industrial Park.

After reviewing the plans for the park, proposed for Jacksonville Road adjacent to the Northampton Industrial Park, the commission will make a recommendation to the township supervisors.

Also on the agenda is consideration of preliminary plans of Pioneer Square Inc. for a minor subdivision of property on Second St. Pike.

Pioneer proposes to sell property of the Richboro Swim Club for a grocery store.

Old-fashioned guessing game now under way

An old fashioned guessing contest is now going on at the Feasterville Shopping Plaza and will continue through Sept. 11.

Jars filled with jelly beans will be displayed in many of the stores and visitors will be invited to guess the number of jelly beans in each jar.

Sponsored by the merchants association of the plaza and dubbed the "Back to School Treasure Contest," winners will be given \$10 gift certificates.

As an added attraction, free book covers, compliments of the merchants association, will be given to customers on Aug. 27 and 28.

Man to pay for cell damage

A man arrested by Warminster Township police apparently did not like his temporary quarters in the police station cell.

While waiting for arraignment on charges of disorderly practices, Henry Jacob Worstall, 21, of 38 Bright St., Hatboro, damaged his cell, said police.

He had been arrested Monday night about 10:30 at McNally's Cocktail Lounge, 355 York Road, by Lt. James Miller and patrolman Steven Posbrock.

After damaging the cell, he was also charged with malicious mischief. Worstall pleaded guilty in his hearing before Justice of the Peace John V. Armstrong and was ordered to pay a \$50 fine and costs for the first charge and \$45 for repairs to the cell.

Boy to hold fair for her benefit

Lisa finds another Bucks friend

By BILL DOLTON
Courier Times Staff Writer

A 12-year-old boy in Bristol is spending some of his summer vacation to help a 12-year-old girl in Upper Southampton Township.

A carrier boy for the Courier Times, Doug Stone and his family read about Lisa Melo, the Southampton girl with a rare muscular disease, and decided to hold a fair for her benefit.

She has been suffering from the disease, myasthenia gravis, for three years. There is no known cure and Lisa has now become totally weak and confined to a wheelchair.

Soliciting Prizes

Doug got in touch with George Thomas, president of the Southampton Area Jaycees which recently held a benefit for Lisa at the Southampton McDonald's Restaurant.

Armed with a letter from Thomas, Doug and several friends canvassed the Mill St. stores in Bristol and several other area businesses soliciting prizes for the fair which will run tomorrow, Friday, and Saturday.

Doug's mother said the fair will be held at the Bristol Borough Community Action Center, Buckley and Spruce Sts., through the permission of Mrs. Ellamae Ringgold, head of the center's board of directors.

Mrs. Stone said the fair is an unusual use of the center and was only permitted because there did not seem to be any other place to hold it.

Credits Friends

She credited her son and his friends — Donald Epp, Jacob Landman, and Eugene Alberto — with doing much of the work involved. "They will be setting up the fair and cleaning up after it's over," she added.

In addition to toys and prizes, food and beverages have also been donated for the three-day event. "All the major soft drink companies have donated their product," said Mrs. Stone, "and many local merchants have also contributed."

Tomorrow and Friday the fair will be held from 5 to 9

p.m., and Saturday from 1 to 9 p.m. Games, prizes, refreshments, drawings on some special gifts, and a white elephant table will be a few of the things to look for at the fair.

In addition to these activities, special entertainment is being planned. Thursday night Bob Vorhaus of Levittown will

perform his magic and comedy act. Brian Feinberg, a ventriloquist from Levittown, will entertain Friday night at 7. Other entertainment is being sought for Saturday.

Needs Tables, Chairs

Mrs. Stone said several items are still needed. The most urgent need is for folding tables and chairs, but the loan of ice chests for soft drinks and chafing dishes for food has also been requested by Mrs. Stone.

Adult workers are also needed to supervise the fair and handle tables, she said. Anyone wishing to donate their services or some needed items can call 788-5883.

The fair is indirectly under the supervision of the Southampton Area Jaycees, whose efforts in Lisa's behalf have already inspired a neighborhood carnival in Southampton which raised \$313 and large donations from groups such as the Southampton Township police, Southampton Kiwanis club, Southampton Welcome Wagon Club, and a group of Levittown youngsters who held a play to raise money.

Favored expo site

Penn's Landing replaces Byberry

PHILADELPHIA (UPI)—The Philadelphia Bicentennial Corp. has made a quick shift in its pick for the 1976 bicentennial exposition site to some 600 acres straddling the Delaware River along the Philadelphia Camden waterfront.

Dissidents cause alert

WASHINGTON (UPI) — An alert restricting U.S. military personnel to their bases in South Vietnam was not ordered because of any evidence of a possible coup against the South Vietnamese government, according to the State Department.

Spokesman Robert J. McCloskey said Tuesday that one factor in the alert was that "dissident elements in South Vietnam might announce some anti-American activity" in conjunction with coming assembly elections.

The announcement of the selection of the Penn's Landing Pettys Island-East Camden site came one week after both candidates for mayor here came out against the use of the 1,000 acre Byberry site in the far northeast section of the city for the proposed international exposition.

Use of the Byberry land had been favored by the Bicentennial Corp.

Republican Thatcher Longstreth and Democrat Frank L. Rizzo cited opposition of Byberry residents to use of the land located around the Philadelphia State Mental Hospital.

Corporation Chairman John Bunting said Tuesday he would try to arrange a meeting early next week with Pennsylvania Gov. Milton J. Shapp, New Jersey Gov. William T. Cahill and Delaware Gov. Russell Petersons. Also invited were Philadelphia Mayor James H.J. Tate and Camden Mayor Joseph M. Nardi Jr.

Bunting admitted it would be harder to get the approval of the Bureau of International Expositions in Paris of the waterfront site, but said it would be easier to sell the site to state and local governments in Pennsylvania.

"We feel we have a site with much more romance," he said. "It will be more attractive, and politically, it will be much more viable."

18 arrested in drug raids

BRICKTOWN, N.J. (UPI) — Eighteen persons were arrested on various narcotics charges Tuesday as state and local police staged raids in various Bricktown Township locations.

Col. David B. Kelly, superintendent of the state police, said 24 state troopers and seven members of the Ocean County Prosecutor's Office were armed with 19 arrest warrants totalling 34 narcotics charges.

Kelly said the suspects, which included four juveniles and one female, were charged with the possession and sale of heroin, marijuana, hashish, LSD, amphetamines and PCP. He said the eldest was 21-years-old. Each suspect was processed at the Breton Woods Fire House in Woods Township, prior to being held in Ocean County Jail. They face arraignment later today before Municipal Court Judge Alan Corblatt, who signed the arrest warrants.

The raids capped an undercover investigation, during which members of the state police narcotics squad purchase large quantities of narcotic drugs, Kelly said.

Bucks Viet vets plan for march

The Bucks County Chapter of Vietnam Veterans Against the War and Friends will meet at 8 tonight to discuss final plans for RAW II, a 45-mile march through Bucks County on Labor Day weekend to urge that a date be set for withdrawal of all American forces from Indochina.

Vietnam-era veterans and residents who wish to help in the march may contact Jack Roe at 295-2086, Bill Scott at 493-5191 or Joan Plavin at 946-1026 for further information about tonight's meeting.

Weather

LOCAL FORECAST: Sunny today, high in the mid 70's; Some cloudiness tonight, low around 60. Partly cloudy tomorrow with a chance of showers, high temperature around 80. Precipitation probability near zero today, 20 per cent tonight and 30 per cent tomorrow. Extended outlook: Chance of a few showers on Friday, Saturday and Sunday. High temperature in the low to mid 80's; low in the 60's.

SEASHORE FORECAST: Sunny today, highs in the 70's; fog developing tonight low in the low 60's. Partly sunny tomorrow, highs in the 70's. Winds variable 5 to 10 miles per hour through tomorrow. South to southeast winds at 10 to 15 miles per hour this afternoon.

High yesterday: 70
Low yesterday: 54
Low this morning: 52

Sunset today: 7:42 p.m.
Sunrise tomorrow: 6:20 a.m.
Sunset tomorrow: 7:41 p.m.

TOMORROW'S TIDES
At Bristol
High 7:23 a.m. Low 2:24 a.m.
High 7:47 p.m. Low

—for the tides at Morrisville, add 15 minutes for high tide and 45 minutes for low tide.



Courier Times Photo by Alex Zidock

FLEET ADDITION — Jim Conaway, captain of A company of the Lower Southampton Fire Co., polishes the windshield of its new \$14,000 special service truck. The truck will generate

power for auxiliary lighting and compressed air. Funds for its purchase were raised by a general donation drive from filling swimming pools.