



Mr Steve Hensley

Box #1

Chucky

Tennessee

37641

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UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND

COLLEGE PARK 20742

301-454-2843

DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY

E. B. Smith
(professor)

5904 Chestnut Hill Road
College Park, Maryland 20740
June 10, 1985

Dear Mr. Hensley,

Two Chuckey friends have sent me copies of your article in the Greeneville Sun, and I am delighted that you are doing this work. I only vaguely remember Uncle Ed himself, but I remember very well my first bow and arrow, which he made for me. I must have been about five years old or less, but I still remember learning to shoot it.

Unfortunately, my parents had no sense of history at all, and I was in the Navy when they sold the old house on the hill. Otherwise, the glider which was in the attic for years might have been preserved. There was a ton of old letters, etc. also, but I fear all ~~were~~ destroyed. I am sure you know about the collection at University of Mississippi in Oxford. Also, several years ago I looked up and read a long article on the future of flight published by Uncle Ed in the Smithsonian Institution's periodical. I believe it was still in the 1890's, but I am not sure. You could probably write to the Smithsonian librarian and get the exact citation and Tusculum College library might be able to get it for you on inter-library loan. I am tied up this week and am going to Europe for a month on Sunday, but later on I could drive down or take the subway and look it up for you.

Uncle Ed was the oldest of a remarkable family. His father, JNS Huffaker became locally famous during a cholera epidemic in Knoxville. When everybody else ran for cover JNS stayed at his post and cared for the sick and dying till the epidemic finally ran itself out. The sister next to ~~Ed~~ was the most brilliant person I ever knew. She lived with us and had me reading almost before I was walking. Everything I have been able to do in a long and happy life I owe to her. My grandfather, Ed's younger brother was a physician who unlike today's crew was available day and night and did not ask whether or not they could pay. Uncle Ed, my grandfather Robert, and Uncle Charles all lost their wives young. So they put all their children together in the big house and their sisters raised them. Thus my mother's first cousins have always been "Uncle" and "Aunt." I assume you know that Jerry McCall, Uncle Ed's grandson, was Werner Von Braun's top assistant in the space program. He is 6 years younger than I am, but he probably remembers his grandfather fairly well from his early childhood. Jerry got a Ph.D. in math from University of Illinois. My brother Bob and I, having been first taught by Aunt Effie, ended up with Ph.D. degrees from University of Chicago. Mariada, Uncle Ed's daughter, has had a stroke and is in a nursing home in Oxford. She is still quite lucid, however, and if you haven't interviewed her you should do so. She was born here in Washington while he was at Smithsonian.

If I can help you in any way, please let me know. I have written 4 books related to 19th century American history, but have never dealt with history of science, which is a very popular field now. I keep making suggestions you probably already know about, but there are several citations of Uncle Ed in the published Wright Brothers papers. I don't think they give him adequate credit for his discoveries. Their story of Uncle Ed and themselves being driven out of their tent into the ocean by mosquitoes is very funny.

Again, I am glad you are doing this work and hope you can make a success of it. If you should come to Washington to do any research, stay with us.

Smith
E. B. Smith

S:

This is zeroxed from Rita Huffaker & D'Amico stuff. She didn't have what she thought she had. Some typed papers are missing as you will see because it starts at page 28 I doubt if she has them.

There is one other thing of her's I will zerox, but it is just an article (published) of Langley's, but ECH made a couple of checks on it.

I still have more personal letters to have copied & typed to send you

m m.

Jerry has a large framed picture of ECH in his later years, a large framed picture of CSRH and a medal he got from Emroy & Henry I think. I can't get him to look for them right now.



Mary F. Macaulay
98 High Street
Woodbridge, NJ 07095



CONFEDERATE AIR FORCE



The Magnolia Manner



B:CAF8.86

P. O. Box 653

Belzoni, Miss. 39038

Un Savate al' Empennage Edition

MISSISSIPPI WING

Newsletter - August 1986

NEXT MEETING: Friday, August 15, 1986 at 1900 hrs.

Admiral Benbow Inn

905 North State St.

Jackson, Miss.

AGENDA: Reports on Wing Permanent HQ Location.

LAST MEETING: Several important matters were considered at the July 25, 1986 meeting at the Admiral Benbow. The lease offered by the Hawkins Field Airport Authority on a possible location for a permanent Wing HQ was read and discussed, and some verbal empennage twisting on Wing projects produced a lively discussion. It was a good meeting and if you missed it you should've been there. The lease is for a primary term of five years with an option to renew for three additional five year terms. The ground offered is 16,366.584 sq. ft. (0.376 acres). This is a 100 ft. by 140 ft. rectangle, which allows a 20 ft. apron around the proposed hangar, and a 30 ft. by 79 ft. driveway. The price offered is an annual fee of 20 cents per sq. ft. or \$3,273.36 per year for the first five year term. This is to be paid \$272.78 per month. The second five year term is offered for 22 cents per sq. ft., \$300.05 per month, \$3,600.60 per year. The third five year term is offered for 24 cents per sq. ft., \$327.33 per month, \$3,927.98 per year. The fourth five year term is offered for 27 cents per sq. ft., \$368.25 per month, \$4,418.98 per year. These are minimum costs since the lease also calls for rent escalation at three year intervals based on the Consumer Price Indexes. The minimum rent offered for the first five year term is \$16,366.80, for the second five year term it is \$18,003.00, for the third five years it is \$19,639.90, and for the fourth five years it is \$22,094.90. The total cost of the full twenty years proposed is \$76,104.60, minimum. The lease also does not allow storage of aircraft for rental and it does not provide for sale or removal of the building and improvements at the end of the lease. A unanimous decision was made by those present to negotiate for more reasonable terms or to find another location.

CONFEDERATE AIR FORCE

THE WING/STAFF CONFERENCE in Minneapolis, Minn. was reported by Colonels Betty and Sonny Williamson. Representatives of 127 industrial companies attended the Conference. Starting now all official contacts with the military must be cleared through the Executive Director, and any member who is representing the CAF on a military base must wear the proper CAF uniform. The man-hours worked by volunteers at CAF events or work parties should be reported to HQ Harlingen. PX insurance for non-CAF events is now \$50.00 per day.

FOR LIABILITY COVERAGE wing members must be national members. A new recruiting program is aiming for a twenty percent increase in new members and a twenty percent increase in life members over the next six months. During this period existing members may change to life membership for \$1,200 and members 65 years of age and over may convert for \$1,000. This is a real bargain especially if you expect to live ten more years. Personally if I had known I was going to live this long I would have taken better care of myself, and I would have changed to life membership sooner.

THE WILLIAMSONS DO IT AGAIN. Sonny and Betty sold more tickets for the VCR raffle than any other team. They deserve the Order of the Golden TUIT. Congratulations to them and all others who worked so hard on this project.

OFFICIAL CAF CALENDARS FOR 1987 are now on sale at the PX. Send your check, marked Calendar, to Col. John Tynes, Rt. 1 Box 30, Liberty, Miss. 39645.

WE THOUGHT five years ago when the Mississippi Wing was formed that we would have an operating aircraft by now. But look at what we have accomplished. We have had three airshows that produced income for the wing and the local Jackson area. Members have dismantled and moved a metal building for use as a hangar/HQ. We were promised a location at Hawkins Field for this building but after long hours and hard work by some wing members, and by Col. Elmo Allen in particular, this promise has not materialized. We have the C-45 which has been partially restored. This restoration is taking longer than anticipated but much has been done on it and it can be finished sooner if we have a hangar to work in. Recent liability insurance increases have caused changes in aircrew and passenger eligibility so we may prefer to sell it or trade it on an L-5 or an L-4. What kind of a Yeng Yang do YOU want? All historic aircraft need shelter and certainly a wood and fabric type needs a hangar most of all.

THE DEADLINE for requesting 1987 airshows is Oct. 15, 1986.

TRARON 1 now has 124 aircraft.

THE SOUTHERN MINNESOTA WING holds national charter number two and they have five restorations to their credit.

Belzoni Realty Company Inc.

DELTA REAL ESTATE SINCE 1921

BOX 653 - BELZONI, MISSISSIPPI 39038
247-2811, AREA 601

Sept. 27, 1986

Mrs. Gordon Macaulay
98 High St.
Woodbridge, N. J. 07095

Dear Mary Forest,

E. C. Huffaker and Aunt Mariada are hot news items in the Oct. issue of the "Magnolia Manner". I sure do appreciate the letters and information you have been sending. Let me know the next time you plan to be in Oxford to see your mother. I would like to meet you there.

Love to all,

*Cullum (a cousin on
my father's side)*

I am "Perpetrator in Chief" of this.



CONFEDERATE AIR FORCE

OVER



THE MAGNOLIA MANNER

CAF10.86

P. O. Box 653
Belzoni, Miss. 39038

MISSISSIPPI WING
Newsletter - October 1986
Chuck Yeager Edition

NEXT MEETING: Friday, October 10, 1986 at 1900 hrs.
Best Western Fort Brown Motor Hotel
1900 East Elizabeth
(2 blocks east of the International Bridge)
Brownsville, Tex. 78520

AGENDA: Meet at the above motel lounge and then go to dinner possibly at Garcias, The Drive In, or you name it. The above meeting time and agenda may be changed by fire, flood, whims, and other acts of God. Check at Mississippi Wing PX for last minute changes.

LAST MEETING: The September Wing meeting was well attended, and like a good mission it was well planned and well carried out. WingCom, Tom Phelps called for reports from the Permanent HQ Committee. XO, Bob Bates reported that the meeting with the Bruce Campbell Field Airport Board had gone well. The wing is being asked to submit a lease for consideration by the Airport Board. Col. Bates will work with JAG, John Dunham in drafting a lease.

THE ARIZONA WING is touring the south with their B-17 "Sentimental Journey" and P-51 "Ho Hum". This B-17 features Betty Grable nose art and don't ask how a plane named "Ho Hum" can fly wing for that. May be it features some guy named Yo Yo. Anyway, they plan to be at Hawkins Field Sept. 26 - 29 for static display of these aircraft. The Wing has been asked to coordinate this event, to furnish ground transport and rooms for the eight man aircrew, and to assist with the static display activities. This B-17 is the first one to be on display in Jackson since 1970. Col. Sonny Williamson will coordinate the event and help is needed to make it successful. Call him at his office ph. 932-8461 or at his home ph. 956-1186 to volunteer.

CHUCK YEAGER will be honored by the CAF at AIRSHO 86. A reception for General Yeager will be held on Saturday, Oct. 11, 1986 at a time and location to be announced by HQ Harlingen. All CAF members are invited. This is a rare opportunity to meet a great American, and a down to earth real high flyer which is a distinct combination in any person. The small admission fee will benefit the CAF. I plan to be there and I hope you will be too.

over

AIR & SPACE is a new magazine which has just come out from the Smithsonian Institution. Vol. 1 No. 1, the April/May issue has an excellent calendar of past historic and future planned events as well as articles on several types of aircraft. "Chase" tells the story of pilots who follow experimental aircraft and missiles during development. "The Enduring Biplane" is an interesting report on biplane use and development. "Cathedrals of the Sky" is about the time when zeppelins seemed to be destined to become the ocean liners of the air. These and other items lead us to predict that a subscription will be an interesting and valuable addition to your list of aviation publications. Annual subscriptions are \$18.00 for six issues and we have blank applications available for interested members.

A CENTURY AGO the decade of the eighties may be thought of as the beginning of modern flight. Alphonse Penaud was a gifted Frenchman who flew several types of model aircraft and gliders. He failed in his attempts to develop a manned airplane because no practical engines were available. Ridicule and despair over his lack of success caused his suicide in 1880. Less than twenty years later his designs were being used by Langley, the Wright Brothers, and others to experiment with powered flight for man carrying planes.

E. C. HUFFAKER was an aviation pioneer who used his training and experience as a civil engineer to observe the soaring flight of birds. He measured the contour and shape of their wings and decided that the curvature created differences in pressure which generated lift. His work in Chuckey, Tenn. is documented as early as 1892 and by 1895 he was invited to join Samuel P. Langley, at the Smithsonian Institute, for aviation research sponsored by the U. S. government. His wing designs and observations of how birds use their tail feathers to control the direction of flight were used by Chanute, the Wright Brothers, and others. Huffaker married Carrie Sue Redding of Hazelhurst, Miss. in 1894 and lived for a while in Oxford, Miss., where his daughter still lives.

THE MISSISSIPPI WING PX will make the long and arduous journey to AIRSHO 86 thanks largely to the efforts of Col. John Tynes. John and his group need help in manning the PX while it is on display in Harlingen. PX activity benefits the entire wing and PX duty should be divided equally by wing members. In addition to sales the PX will be used as Wing HQ at AIRSHO 86. Messages may be left with those on duty and activities will be coordinated through it.

Ph. 494-9409
Norris

Shirley Gerry
Rt. 1 - Box 408
Yacht Club Rd.
Andersonville, In. 37705

Dear Steve,
A friend in Greeneville sent me the article about Uncle Edward Huffaker and it was so interesting.

Will look forward to the one in July -

It is very commendable of you to work and give so much time to the project. I really appreciate it and so does his daughter, Mariada.

She still lives in Oxford, Miss. About a year ago she had a massive ^{stroke} and was critically ill for some time. But she is improved now and can talk on the phone. I keep in touch with her. She is now 86 yrs. old. She is still full of spirit, one leg is paralyzed, but she walks with help. Uses wheel chair. She even plays the piano for Sunday school at the nursing home. Her 3 children visit & take her out to eat. They closed her Apt. and she expects to continue living at the Convalescent Center in Oxford.

v She told me she wished she had encouraged you and given you more information. I believe she thought her son, Jerry ^(Klar) McCall, who lives in Gulf Park, Miss., might write about his grandfather.

He works for our Government safety program around the world, travels extensively and we do not believe he will get around to it now. He has the records & display at his home of Uncle Ed's awards and medals that were on display one year at Ole Miss. Univ. at Oxford and also at Smithsonian Institution in Washington.

Uncle Ed's grandfather, Wesley H., was a mathematician & a musician. He left him a number of mathematical formulas he had worked out, as he was his eldest grandson. This must have stimulated his interest in math. at an early age.

All three of the brothers finished College at Emory & Henry and Uncle Ed went on to Univ. of Va. at Charlottesville. He was then offered a scholarship at Johns Hopkins Univ., but turned it down, saying he was tired going to school. It is my understanding

3.

that his brother Robert Olin H. grad-
uated from Johns Hopkins Med. Sch.

His other brother was a Prof. and
taught school for several years near
Montgomery, Va.

Uncle Ed told a friend that they
were all scollars, including the
5 girls, who also finished college,
but that they never made a lot
of money. However, Uncle Ed
did make good money as a Civil
Engineer and writing for mag-
azines, Harpers, Scribners & Century.

Also as long as I remember him
he wrote an editorial nearly every
day and sent it to one of the most
vibe newspapers.

He & my father, Rev. Moses H. Rambo,
were great friends and admired
one another very much. When he
was a young minister he went with
Uncle Ed on surveying trips. He
had a contract with one R.R. Co.
and went to N. Carolina & W. Va.

He spent a lot of money on the
airplane parts. I also think he helped
most of his sisters go to college.
His mother and father lived with him

5. of times and their 3 children attended
Chucky School. They were E.B., Bobby
and Frances Smith. E.B. has attend-
ed some of the reunions of the school.
E.B. is a b.A. of Political History and is
a Prof. at Univ. of Maryland. He has
lectured extensively at Univ. of Moscow,
Russia - A year in Japan and recently
in China. Bobby is a b.A. of Political
Science at Saratoga Springs, N.Y. at
Skidmore College. Frances has a
masters in music, voice, and teaches
at Lanham, Md. - She plans on coming
down to visit this summer. She has
a beautiful voice as do her 4 children,
her youngest child Margaret, named
for her great grandmother Ripley
is doing opera roles, & hopes to
study in Europe. Gladys and her
father, Mr. Robt O. Huffer had excellent
voices. His first wife, ^{ma} Ada B. Ripley,
daughter of the Ripley who built the
brick house died when Gladys was
3 mos. old and she was raised by
Aunt Effie Huffer & the other aunts -
Robt. O. Huffer married a second
time, Bertram Hill, from near
Sunbright, Ky. She was a very lovely
& handsome woman and taught
piano occasionally.

I know my information has
been very sketchy, but it may in-

6. Trust someone in Chucky-

So sorry I could not write sooner. My husband became ill shortly after my daughter and I were up there & visited with you. He has been in and out of the Hosp. with 3 or four illnesses. He now has heart failure & his dr. wants him to have a heart valve replaced & 2 Coronary bypasses. So I have had constant interruptions. Of course the operation is very serious and I am not very much in favor of it as we are both 76 yrs. old. But he has decided he wants to go ahead with it.

I have been making notes on the Haffaker family for the younger generations. Have not had time for many corrections or typing. Will send you some copies anyway. It gives insight into a family that lived and loved Chucky for a very long time.

Sincerely,
Shirley R. Perry

Steve.

Did you ever receive
the prints from the
microfilm that you gave
me? I sent it I think
summer before last or last
summer? Was it clear
enough to be of any
benefit? I didn't think
to have it put on larger
paper. I still might be
able to if it would help
you.

Mother is doing fine
at the nursing home in
Biloxi, MS. close to Jerry.

Mary M.

Please send address of K. Hy
Hawk museum. I will send picture