

NSM NEWS

WINTER
2017

Official Newsletter of the National Soaring Museum

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MUSEUM STAFF

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Executive Director / Curator

Mary Flaspahler
Bookkeeper / Museum
Services

Lisa Bartlett
Gift Shop Manager / Visitor
Services

Tom Tunnicliff
Weekend Staff

Jean Doherty
Administrative Assistant
Newsletter Editor
Membership Coordinator

From the Director - Trafford Doherty

EXHIBITS:

Restoration Shop:

We have made major progress in transforming this area into an effective exhibit space. Gone is most of the extraneous material (a.k.a. "junk") that has been accumulating over the years. The BG-6 is now in place and we will soon be setting it up as an on-going work in progress presentation. Visitors to the museum are very interested in seeing the actual structure of an older sailplane and the BG-6 certainly doesn't mind being examined. In addition, we are hanging a number of large-scale sailplane models, including a recently-donated TG-3, from the roof trusses in the shop.



Main Display Galleries: In the main galleries, all of our sailplanes are now properly cordoned off by the use of stanchions and chain. Their placement has established a professional appearance that effectively sends the message that our artifacts have value and are to be respected. This isn't foolproof, but it's a giant step towards achieving what I consider to be an appropriate museum display environment.

Hanging the TG-3 →



FROM THE DIRECTOR — continued —

Before and after view of our glider collection from the top of the stairway:



BEFORE



AFTER

With the exception of those that are wall-mounted, all of the cable-suspended signs have been taken down and placed on wooden sign holders. Those signs, that were hung in close proximity to the stairway, are now wall-mounted beneath the Paul Villinski wing sculpture. The new setup is very effective - signs are out of the way and easy to read.

SPECIAL EXHIBITS: The **Doll House Exhibit** has proven to be very effective for us in terms of visitor interest and increased attendance. A combination of this exhibit and also being open on weekends in January has tripled our admissions income for this period. We have had many people who have never been here before come up to see the dollhouses and then look at the whole museum. One lady told us she had lived in Elmira for 70 years and had never been up here before! It is our intention to repeat this presentation annually. On April 1, we will close this exhibit and put the lobby back together. (We will be looking for appropriate furniture for the lobby - with an eye toward folks sitting and watching glider activity through the front window.)



Quilt Exhibit - April 21-23

Our annual **QUILT SHOW**, presented by **Piecemaker Quilters of Elmira**, will be held on April 21-23 and will feature over 200 quilts on display, plus raffle baskets, vendors, Café and quilt raffle. For more information, visit: www.piecemakerquilters.weebly.com

Gift Shop Upgrade:

Mary, Lisa, and Jean, are working with Kyle Schweizer to replace our current *point of sales* system. The existing system is based on Windows XP, which is obsolete.

FROM THE DIRECTOR — continued —

On May 1 we will open an exhibit of **NATURE PHOTOGRAPHY** by **Matthew Burroughs** of Corning, who will display a sizeable collection of his work. We're planning to have a reception for Matt starting at 5:00 PM on Friday, May 5th, and hope you will be able to attend. If you would like to take a look at Matt's work in advance, check his website: www.mattburroughs.fototime.com. This exhibit will be in place throughout the summer and fall.

The *Condor Program* flight simulators have been moved up into the former curator's office and are fully operational. The lower room has been cleaned up and is currently occupied by several dollhouses. As a special exhibits space, this is proving to be very effective, and, as time goes by, we will be varying the presentations in this room.

Blossom Gallery:

We moved the 1-34 simulator to the NE corner and the effect has been very gratifying, with significant improvements being made in flow-through and appearance. Note the display sign holders and stanchions & chain.



Shock Cord Launch Diorama:

Friend of the museum, Bill Dibble, constructed a platform to raise the viewing level 12", in order to promote the *forced perspective* effect of the scene.

We then moved it out into the main gallery, placing it along the south wall by the stairs where it is more noticeable. Bill also made our sign holders and is now building some additional display cabinets for us.

Restroom Upgrade:

The County has the restroom fixture replacement project underway. Some have already been installed and I have been assured that we will have *all new* fixtures in time for the busy season. The bathroom floors will also be refinished.

Elevator:

Our elevator quit for the second time in six months and it turns out that condensation from an overhead (steel) roof hatch has been raining down on the main drive unit with fried circuit boards being the result. This is a County issue, of course, and they are taking care of it – now that we know what the problem is. An elevator is one of those things that we would like to have confidence in.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

November 19 - April 1

Dollhouse & Miniatures Exhibit

April 21-23

Quilt Show

May 1 - November 1

Nature Photography



MEMBERSHIP UPGRADES

Diamond

Bob & Joan Jackson

Silver

Ed Salkeld
Mike & Fran Koerner
Dody & Jack Wyman

Bronze

Pete & Bonnie Hamilton
Ron McLaughlin
Keith Fong
Allen Duncan

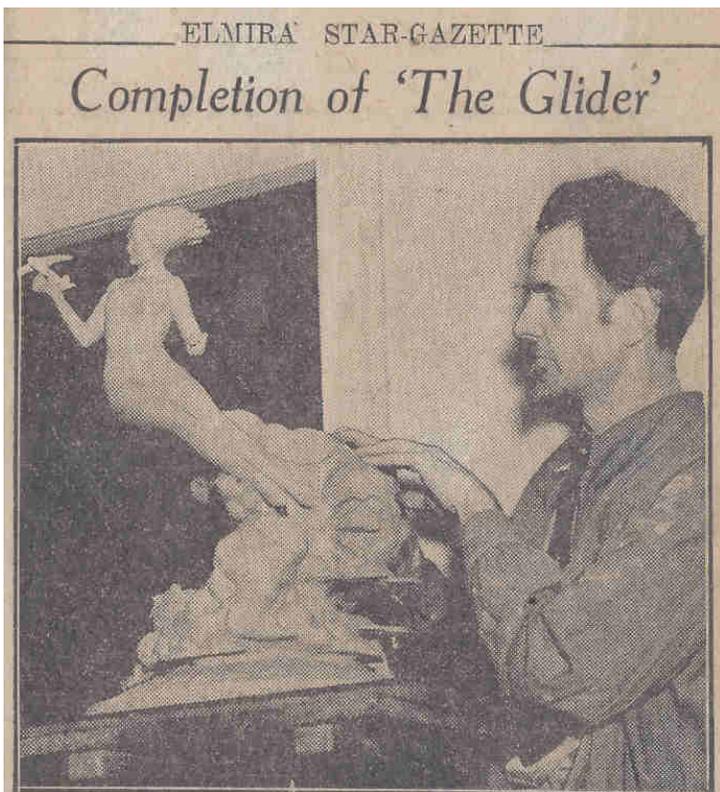
Family

Robert T.S.Colby
Dick & Sarah Butler

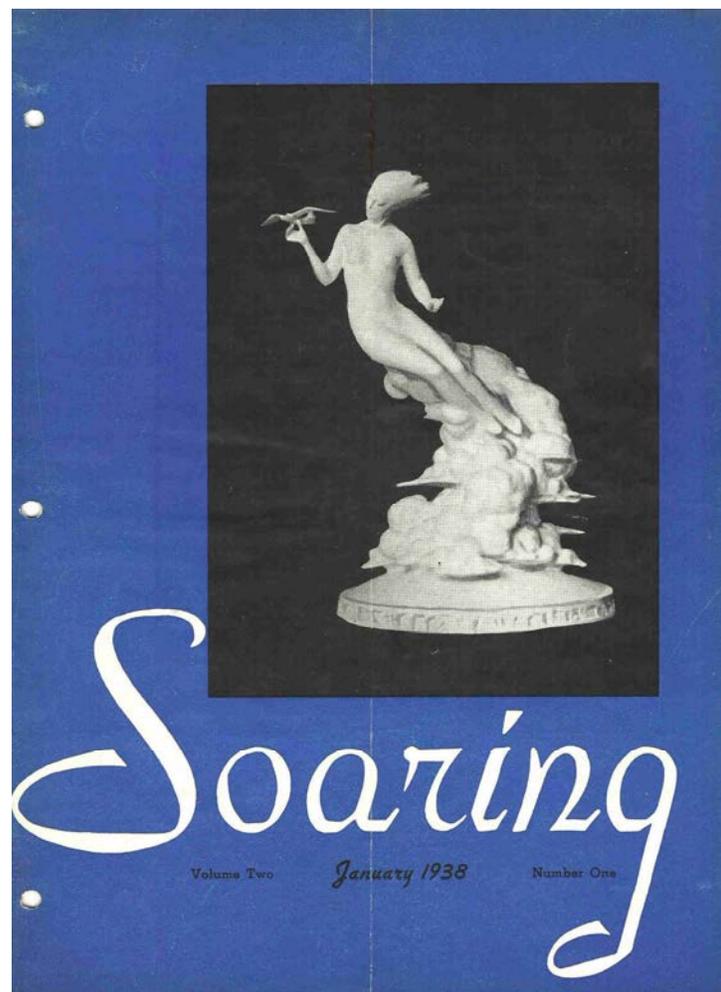
“The Glider” - Famous Sculpture Rediscovered

Originally created in wire and plaster for the Elmira Area Soaring Corp. in the late 1930s, by the well known local artist and sculptor, Ernfred Anderson, the significant work has been rediscovered in a storage area of the National Soaring Museum. Jessica Lohnes, granddaughter of Mr. Anderson, contacted our museum director to inquire as to the sculpture’s whereabouts a month or so ago. Traff found that it had been in storage for many years and was in generally poor condition. Jessica requested that the statue be taken to the Arnot Art Museum, where it will be repaired so that bronze castings can be made from the original. One of these bronzes will be given to the NSM for exhibit, which is very exciting.

Ernfred Anderson was born on August 28, 1896 in Äsperöd, a small village in Sweden. He studied art at the University of Lausanne, Switzerland, and immigrated to the United States in his early twenties. He became good friends with the landscape and portrait artist, Benjamin Osro Eggleston, who introduced Mr. Anderson to the art world then flourishing in Brooklyn, New York. Mr. Eggleston painted at least two portraits of Mr. Anderson that we know of. One is exhibited at Elmira College and the other, called “the Sculptor” was destroyed in one of the many floods in Elmira. These floods claimed many works by Mr. Anderson. After meeting fellow artist Lars Hoftrup at a meeting of the Seneca Art Association in 1933, Anderson decided to move his family to Elmira, New York. Hoftrup hosted Anderson when he first arrived in the city and the two became close friends. In 1938 they opened the Pine Gallery together on Dry Run Road outside of Pine City in an old barn that they renovated.



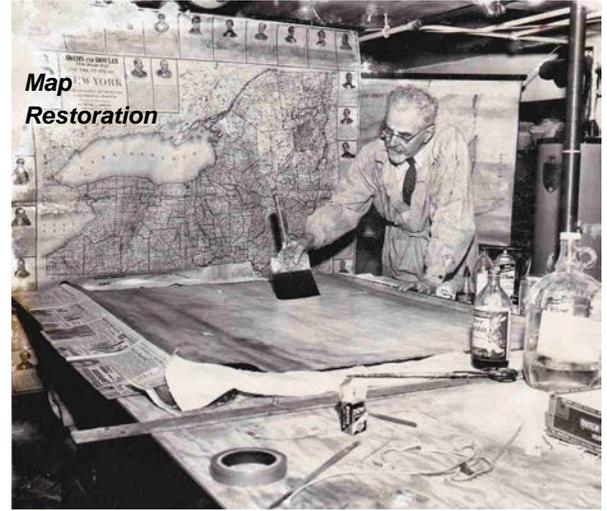
↑ Ernfred Anderson in his studio, completing work on “The Glider”.



“The Glider” featured on the cover of Soaring Magazine in January 1938 →

Anderson's first job in Elmira was teaching art at School No. 11. He went on to teach drawing, sculpture and clay modeling at Elmira College. He also taught at the Elmira Reformatory and Cornell University during the course of his career. From 1942 until 1965 he served as the director of the Arnot Art Gallery where he did everything from creating exhibits and giving tours to trimming branches from trees outside the museum.

His work has been exhibited at the Whitney Museum of American Art in New York City, the Chicago Swedish Club, Cornell University, the New York Art Center, the Brooklyn Museum, the National Academy, the Steele Memorial Library and the Arnot Art Museum. He was internationally known as a sculptor but he also painted, worked in stained glass, and restored and repaired artwork. He worked on several maps and paintings in Chemung County Historical Society's collection.



One of Ernfred Anderson's most famous works stands over the grave of Mark Twain in Woodlawn Cemetery. In 1937 Clara Clemens Gabilowitsch commissioned Anderson to create the monument to her father and to her husband that you see there today. Anderson received the commission for the monument after impressing Clara with a portrait bust that he had made of Mark Twain. Anderson sculpted the bust based from photographs of Twain and comments and criticisms from those who knew the writer. As was Anderson's typical sculpting process, he made the bust of clay then cast it in plaster. Some years later it was cast again in bronze. Jervis Langdon considered it the finest likeness of Mark Twain he had ever seen.

In January 1937, a black and white brush drawing of the first soaring meet at Harris Hill was shown at the International Aeronautical Art Exhibition in Los Angeles, California. The drawing depicts the take-off field, refreshment stand and photographer's tent, the small radio office and main office as they were used at that time.



Ernfred Anderson's drawing of the first soaring meet at Harris Hill

NEW MEMBERS

Cayley Society

Jim & Doris Lally
Thomas Johnson

Bronze

Jerry & Jeanne Madden

Family

Chuck Comstock &
Randy Schiavone
Jack Frick
Charles & Nancy Bauder
Don & Vanessa Rumsey
John & Betty Wahlig

Individual

Fred Daddi
Brian & Jolanta Doherty
Chris Doherty
Simon & Elizabeth Bjarning
Ron & Linda Bors
Paul Trist
Hugh Harrington
Joe Somers
John Murtari

Write a review for the
National Soaring
Museum
on

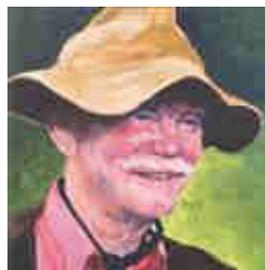
tripadvisor

In Memoriam

BILL GALLAGHER 1925-2016

Longtime National Soaring Museum archivist and historian, William Edward "Bill" Gallagher, age 91, of Elmira, NY, passed away November 19th, 2016. He is survived by his wife, Margaret.

Bill completed his education with a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration at Kent State. Immediately after high school, Bill was inducted into the U. S. Navy where he served aboard the USS Instill in the Atlantic and Caribbean. After the war ended, Bill moved with his family to Elmira where his father was a yards good buyer with Sheehan's Department Store. It was in Elmira that Bill met the love of his life, Peg Crossed. At the time, both were working for the Star Gazette.



After their marriage in 1949, the couple moved to Kent, Ohio, where Bill completed his education with a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration at Kent State. Peg continued her writing working as a reporter for the Kent Courier Tribune and the Cleveland Plain Dealer. After Graduation, Bill and Peg returned to Elmira, where both worked at the Star Gazette for most of the remainder of their working careers. Over his 50-plus years in advertising management and sales, Bill received many awards for his creative advertising endeavors. After retirement from the Star Gazette, Bill served as the resident historian at the National Soaring Museum. He enjoyed many hobbies, including soaring at Harris Hill as an active glider pilot, bicycling throughout the Northeast, downhill and cross-country skiing, painting, and story telling. He was an enthusiastic history buff and WWII aficionado. Bill was also known by many as the man who played Mark Twain in area plays and presentations.

HENRY COMBS 1917-2016

An accomplished soaring pilot and longtime NSM member, Henry Combs died on May 28, 2016, at age 99.

In 1998, Henry completed his 200th straight-out diamond distance flight. Henry has been honored by the SSA's *Henry Combs Perpetual Trophy* which is awarded annually to the person or persons completing the greatest number of straight-out diamond distance glider flights during the previous year.

Henry worked as a structural engineer at Clarence "Kelly" Johnson's famed Skunk Works group of Lockheed Corporation. He was Deputy Project Manager on the Lockheed U-2 program, Head Structural Engineer on the SR-71 Blackbird, and later, Technical Director of the Skunk Works. While he is most well known for his integral work on the U-2, the SR-71 and the F-117 Nighthawk, he also worked on the F-104, Lockheed Constellation, C-130 Hercules, XP-58 Chain Lightning, and Lockheed JetStar.

Henry is revered as the father of the titanium A-12 structure. According to Ben Rich of "Skunk Works", Henry was the "dean" of the eight-man structures group and an "irascible genius". In 1988 He was named to the United States Soaring Hall of Fame.



MEMORIALS

In Memory of Bill Gallagher

Peter & Lynn Smith
Curran & Barbara Sekella
Fred Lawrence

In Memory of Ed Schwenkler

Fred Lawrence

NATIONAL SOARING MUSEUM OFFICERS

Dr. Walter B. Cannon
President

C. Dianne Black-Nixon
Vice-President

Steven Leonard
Secretary

Dr. William G. Howard
Treasurer

Trafford L-M. Doherty
Director

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William Batesole
Kevin Christner
Warren Cramer
Ann B. Crook
Donna L. Draxler
Robert Jackson
Michael Koerner
David Manchester
James McDaniel
David Pixton
W. Stuart Schweizer
David Welles
Dody Wyman



END-OF-YEAR DONATIONS

Kevin Christner
Ira Blieden
Henry Gurshman
Peter & Lynn Smith
Bruce Bottoms
Ellie Gross Pendleton



Al Parker, the first person in the world to fly a sailplane (Sisu) 1000 km - all on thermals, poses with a young Trafford Doherty in 1961 on the grounds of Schweizer Aircraft when he flew his P-51 up from Texas. A few years after that visit to Schweizer, and after his record flight, Al returned to Elmira and Traff congratulated him on his spectacular achievement. Al replied, "Accidents will happen!" Al's son, Steve, told us that he had really wanted to take that P-51 flight with his dad, but had to stay home and go to school.

Today Al's Sisu can be found on display in the Boeing Aviation Hangar at the Udvar-Hazy Center →



United States Soaring Hall of Fame

Call for Nominations

Nominations for election to the United States Soaring Hall of Fame are currently being accepted. The deadline for the current year consideration is June 30, 2017

Any member of the Soaring Society of America may submit an individual's name for consideration as a Hall of Fame candidate. Each nomination must be accompanied by a detailed statement setting out the achievements or contributions of the nominee, justifying consideration for election to the Hall of Fame.

Please send nominating letters and support material to:

Trafford L. Doherty, Director
National Soaring Museum
51 Soaring Hill Dr.
Elmira, NY 14903-9204

Questions? Please call (607) 734-3128 e-mail: director@soaringmuseum.org



