

Bell President Given Award At Company's 20th Birthday

Lawrence D. Bell, president of Bell Aircraft Corp., was awarded the Air Force's highest civilian honor Saturday as the company celebrated its 20th birthday.

At the same time, 22 of the 56 employes on the company's first payroll were presented with pins for their long-time employment.

Mr. Bell's award was for "outstanding service to the United States Air Force through an eminent career embracing more than 43 years of selfless dedication to military and peacetime aeronautical progress." Roger Lewis, assistant secretary of the Air Force, presented Mr. Bell with the Exceptional Service Award.

Among the outstanding airplanes developed by Bell Aircraft were the famous "Cobra" series of fighter planes which saw extended service during World War II. Bell also accomplished several notable "firsts" in the aviation industry. They include the first jet-propelled plane, the first supersonic plane, the first anti-submarine helicopter, the first commercial helicopter, the first airplane to fly twice the speed of sound, and the first jet-powered vertical takeoff and landing airplane.

Mr. Bell received one of the 20-year service pins. Also receiving the pins were:

Cecil Fallis of 204 Paramount Pkwy., Davis Marshall of 82 Southwood Drive and Marvin M. McEuen, 1702 Colvin Blvd., all

of the Town of Tonawanda; Gerhard Sjoden, 51 Westgate Rd., Kenmore; Mrs. Irene B. Hogue of 162 Clinton St., Ray Peterson of 18 Koch St. and William Bernhardt of 110 Franklin St., all of Tonawanda, and Andrew Grojean of 298 Drake Drive and Arnold Proefrock, 123 Lockport Ave., both of North Tonawanda.