

*Here we are in Mentone!  
Thinking about you too.*

LAWRENCE D. BELL was born in Mentone on April 5, 1894, son of Isaac and Harriet (Sarber) Bell. This was his home until he was 13, when his father retired and moved to California.

He was interested in airplanes and read everything available about them, but did not see his first one until 1910. In 1912, he entered the aviation business as a mechanic for two exhibition pilots, his brother Grover, and Lincoln Beachy. Some time later he went to work in Glenn L. Martin's factory. When Martin's superintendent left, Larry, then 20, was appointed to fill the vacancy, and he suggested that the company hire an engineer. This was Donald W. Douglas, who had just completed a course at Massachusetts Institute of Technology. So in the early years the three top pioneers in aviation worked together.

In 1917, the Martin firm was merged with the Wright interests. Douglas joined the army. Martin started another plant in Cleveland, and Bell took a new job there. Soon after, he was promoted to vice-president and general manager.

In 1928, he left Martin and moved to Buffalo to join Major Reuben Fleet and Consolidated Aircraft Corporation. A year later he was vice-president and general manager again. In 1935, when the company moved to San Diego, Bell decided to stay in Buffalo and organize his own company. Bell Aircraft was incorporated July 10, 1935.

Mr. Bell's main interests have been research and development. He learned to fly, but was more interested in making planes than in flying them, and he had very definite ideas about the future of military aviation and the role Bell Aircraft would play. Bell Aircraft received practically every type of award for war production, and in 1944, Mr. Bell received the Guggenheim Medal. He has received many other medals and honorary degrees.

In human relations he has maintained a program of hiring handicapped persons which won him tribute from the National American Legion. In 1951, 40% of employees were veterans and 23% of these handicapped. This program continues.

Since 1941, Mr. Bell has been enthusiastic about the future of rotary wing aircraft and began supporting research then. In 1946, Bell Aircraft was awarded the first commercial license for helicopters by the Civil Aeronautics Administration.

The Bell X-1, first rocket-propelled supersonic airplane, brought Bell (with John Stack, and Charles Yeager) the Collier Trophy, the nation's top aeronautical award. He also received the President's Certificate of Merit.

We continue to read of Bell Aircraft's work in remote control of aircraft and in guided missiles. Mr. Bell considers the aircraft industry still a young business and says "Aviation is now reacting to the influence of the scientist. It has outgrown the inventor, the mechanic, and where once it depended upon its aeronautical engineers, it now requires scientists specializing in electronics, metallurgy, chemistry, Physics, thermo-dynamics, fluid mechanics and many other facets of advanced technology. The next decade of aviation may bring developments far exceeding even the important progress achieved in the first 50 years of flight."

At 61, Mr. Bell stands at the top of the aviation industry. He is not only prominent for his achievements in aviation, but for his keen interest in youth and his fellow men.

*Larry looks great!*

# Lawrence D. Bell APPRECIATION PROGRAM

*April 20, 1955*



GYMNASIUM

Mentone, Indiana

*We are going to be victorious after this program.*

When this fine gift was received in October, 1954, a committee was set up to carry out the planning of the library. Advisor was Mr. Morrison Rockhill, and members were Mrs. Opal Tucker, trustee, Mr. Walter Kent, Principal, Mr. Dale Kelley, faculty representative, Mrs. Dan Urschel, PTA representative, and Mr. Kenneth Riner, business representative. The incoming trustee, Mr. Earl Boggs, joined the committee in January. Much time and discussion was spent first on the physical set-up, and Miss Carolyn Whitenack, our state school librarian, spent a day and a half with us, advising on the general plan. Members of the committee also visited school libraries in neighboring communities.

Mr. Boggs, our new trustee, and his advisory board, cooperated in providing the new facilities. Together with Mrs. Tucker and her advisory board plans were jointly made for the completion of the work, the cost of which was paid from the 1954 and 1955 budgets. Mr. McKinley, of the Mentone Lumber Co., secured the services of Mr. Gene Hodson, consulting engineer, for the working plans, and the construction was carried out during Christmas vacation by Mr. Bernard Black, assisted by Mr. Arlo Friesner.

Teachers, interested parents and others of the community presented suggestions for books. Every teacher participated, and the high school and children's catalogues were used as guides, as well as other aids suggested by Miss Whitenack.

The requests were then approved or rejected by the committee. The following points were kept in mind in choosing books: balance, correlation with subjects taught, up-to-dateness, lasting value. An effort was made to have about 80% non-fiction, with about 35% of the total for the grades and 65% for the high school. Book orders were recorded, listed, and typed with the help of the secretarial training class.

When the books arrived, the many steps necessary in processing were carried out by an "assembly line" which worked a half day at a time. (8 to 10 people worked at a time on 10 different occasions.) In this line the books were inspected, embossed with the library seal, card pockets pasted in, date due slips inserted, book cards typed, Dewey Decimal numbers checked and placed on book cards, as well as on the spines of the books. Books were sprayed with a plastic coating for protection, and a final inspection of all operations made them ready for the shelves.

Orders for Wilson printed catalogue cards took care of this item for a number of the books, but for others needing cards three representatives from Manchester College gave special help.

Facts of interest are room size 32 x 32, seating for a full size class of 35 pupils, workroom for classifying, repairing, and pasting, sectional card catalogue file, pamphlet file of occupational material, Dewey Decimal classification, standard adjustable shelving with natural oak finish, modern magazine and newspaper shelving, 24 inch globe, tables and chairs in light finish modern design. We have an oil painting of Mr. Bell, and several large photographs presented by Bell Aircraft.

A library is never finished. New books must be added, old books rebound, improvements made. With the library established, there is a real challenge to school personnel to continue to improve and expand the library resources, and to the students to make the best possible use of these facilities.

# PROGRAM

PRESIDING . . . DR. DAN URSCHHEL

Dedicatory Prayer	The Reverend Ralph Hoffman
Musical Selections	4th, 5th, 6th grades (Under direction of Mr. Dale Whitehead)
	Back Home Again in Indiana—Hamley
	God of Our Fathers—Warren
Introduction of Guests	Dr. Urschel
Vocal Solo	Miss Marita Tucker
Flute Solo	Miss Sarah Urschel
Presentation of MR. LAWRENCE D. BELL	Mr. Morrison Rockhill
	<i>Ramp Conference - great!</i>
The Origin and Formation of the Library	Mr. Walter Kent
Vocal Solo	Mr. David Gosser
ADDRESS	MR. LESTON FANEUF (Vice-president and General Manager Bell Aircraft Corporation)
	<i>Excellent!</i>
Response	Mr. Earl Boggs
Benediction	Mr. Leslie Grant

OPEN HOUSE IN THE LIBRARY FOLLOWING THE PROGRAM

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