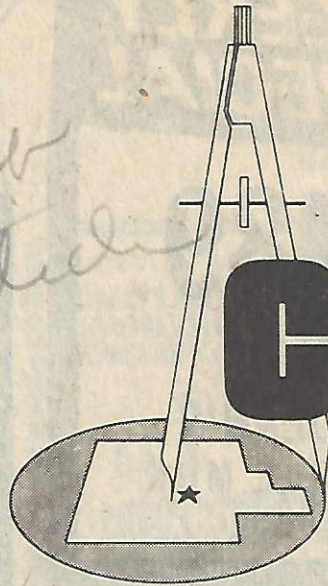


*Dave
Flying
Club*

Wednesday,
September 9, 1981
Vol. 4, No. 19

article



The F
sent

COMI
EDI

Mentone Flying Club now based here.

Due to the closing of the Mentone Airport, the Mentone Flying Club has moved its headquarters to the Fulton County Airport.

The move was made on Father's Day this year after more than 24 years at Mentone. The airport was closed last June by owner, Robert Clupper because of financial difficulties.

The group has built an office and meeting room above the Midwest Air Service's offices at the Fulton County Airport. The hangar is owned by Preston Ewen and Dan Rouch of Midwest. Three hangars housing the club's airplanes are rented from Fulton County Aviation.

Bill Willard was responsible for the majority of the building of the room, with assistance from Harrison Crabill, Shaunn Lybarger, Francis Copen, Al Shaeffner and Don Walls.

The club was started with six members in 1957 at Mentone by Dr. Dan Hurshel, Dale St. Clair and Chick Herendeen, all of Mentone. At that time, Herendeen was owner and operator of the Mentone Airport.

The rules and guidelines of the Rochester Flying Club were taken to Mentone by Crabill, pilot and flight instructor. The Rochester club disbanded a few years later



BOMBER — The dark spot in the lower left portion of the photograph above is a small sack of lime dropped from the plane above it during a "bombing contest" conducted by the

club disbanded a few years later and Crabill joined the Mentone group, which is now one of the largest in the area.

According to members, Herenden was the "backbone" of the Mentone Club until his death in 1978. He provided the facilities and hosted many of the flying events at that airport.

In 1976, the airport and property were sold to Jerry Howell. He and his son, Jeff, were killed in an airplane crash between Mentone and Rochester in November 1978.

His widow, Betty, ran the airport for about one more year and then sold it to Clupper in the spring of 1979.

When Clupper closed the airport, he asked that all aircraft housed there to be moved. Most of the aircraft were owned by people in the Plymouth, Warsaw, Argos and Rochester areas. Clupper's plans for the airport are to tear the buildings down.

The Mentone Flying Club has grown over the years from six to over 50 members. Over 250 people have received their pilot's licenses as club members. The group is proud that no club members have been injured in the 24-year period, although two airplanes have been severely damaged — both because of improper landings by the pilots.

The club owns three airplanes — two Cessna 150s and a Cessna 172. They are relatively late models and are kept in good flying condition. The 150s are used for training and instruction and the 172 is used mainly for cross-country flying.

There are 44 owner members and 12 social members. Nine of the owners and two social members are from the Rochester area. Three women of the group are pilots.

The group has three flight instructors and can guide a person all the way up to Instrument Flight Instructor.

A free flight school is offered to anyone interested in aviation. Classes will begin Sept. 8 and run for 16 weeks on Tuesdays from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m.

Officers are Harrison Crabill, Rochester, president; Rod Dutt, Culver, vice president; Pauline Becknell, Bourbon, secretary; Al Schaeffner, Macy, treasurer; Ralph Stotle, Plymouth; Bill Willard, Rochester, and Francis Coplen, Argos, board of directors.

MUSICAL GROUP SET IN PLYMOUTH

PLYMOUTH — Found Free, a contemporary Christian music group, will appear at the Plymouth Wesleyan Church on South Michigan Road at 11th Street Saturday, Sept. 12, at 7:30

Mentone Flying Club, which now is based at the Fulton County Airport. (The Sentinel Photo.)

Crabill is director of training; crew chiefs are Willard, Don Dillman, Rochester, and Coplen. Arnold Doering, Rochester, is chairman of the annual Memorial Olympic Contest, and Willard is chairman of the annual bean dinner.

Members include: James Allen, Akron; Bob Clupper, Martt Clupper, William Ettinger, John Hart, Mentone; Norman Bales, Larry Phillips, Charles Shull, James Sellers, Bob Swearingen, Steve Vogel, Jerry Black and Brant Mellans, all of Warsaw;

Also, Daryl Ball, Pauline Becknell, Mari Lynn Border, Nathan Faulkner, Ron Faulkner, Robert Marks, all of Bourbon; Charles Coffing, Harrison Crabill, Richard DeLawter, Arnold Doering, Eldon Gohn, Voris Swartz, Wilford Tribby, Bill Willard, Tim Youngstrom, Marvin Anderson, Shauan Lybarger and Michael Hott, all of Rochester.

Also, Chester Clampitt, Atwood; Francis Coplen, Keith Kline, Donald Walls, all of Argos; Kirk and Rod Dutt, of Culver; Jerry Duzan, Silver Lake; Richard Goshert, Alden Jones Jr., Robert Miller, all of Claypool; Ed Ksiezopolski, Akron; Elton Linville, Edwardsburg, Mich.; Leon Whetstone, Burket; David Houghton, Ralph Stolte, Rex Sullivan, Michael Stickle, Rex Grump, Plymouth; Jim Swan, Walkerton and Allan Schaeffner, Macy.

The group gathers periodically for picnics and family outings.

Members recently flew as a group to the Alaskan Highway, and has made two trips to Central America, as well as several short-distance trips.

The club has operated successfully because of the good rules and regulations which all members must follow. It has provided its members with a convenient and economical means for private flying. It is a non-profit, incorporated organization which functions under a set of by-laws established by its membership.

Upon joining the club, each member becomes a stockholder in the corporation and its assets. Each member pays monthly dues which includes all insurance fees. A membership certificate entitles the holder to fly the club's aircraft at established rates, gives him access to the ground school and allows him the privilege of voting and holding office in the club.

Last Saturday, the group had a "bombing contest" during which each pilot flew about 300 feet above a target on the ground and dropped a small sack of lime, trying to get a bull's-eye. The winners were Bill Whiting of Warsaw, 16 feet and Francis Coplen, Argos, and Bill Willard, Rochester, both 38 feet.

The contest was conducted at the Bob Eber residence south of Rochester, where Eber has a grass landing strip.

The three winners will represent the Mentone Flying Club Saturday, Sept. 12, in a bombing contest against the Warsaw Flying Club at Eber's.

Tippecanoe Valley marching band and music department

Tippecanoe Valley High School and Junior High have announced their music departments calendar for the 1981-82 school year as follows:

District marching band contest at Lewis Cass High School (high school), Oct. 3; district marching band contest rain date, Oct. 10; Mentone band and choir concert (Mentone sixth grade band, seventh and eighth grade bands, and seventh and eighth grade choir), 7:30 p.m. Oct. 26 in the Mentone gym; State marching band contest at Terre Haute (High school marching band), Oct. 31; Akron band and choir concert (Akron sixth, seventh and eighth grade bands, and seventh and

Nov. 2 at the Akron gym; Fall Choral concert, (high school choir and swing choir), 7:30 p.m. Nov. in the Tippecanoe Valley High School commons; Christmas concert, (combined junior school choirs and bands and high school band and choir), 2:30 p.m. Dec. 1 in the TVHS gym.

Also, jazz ensemble-swing choir contest (high school jazz ensemble and high school swing choir), Jan. 16; district instrumental solo and ensemble contest, Jan. 30; district piano vocal solo ensemble contest, Feb. 6; state piano-vocal solo and ensemble contest, Feb. 13; dinner concert, Feb. 19; State instrumental solo and ensemble contest, Feb. 20; Winter band concert (sixth grade band and seventh and eighth