

Throttle Forward...

WHO KNEW?

In March of 2001, the first issue of the new aviation magazine, FLY-LOW, was printed and distributed to "one" state. There were three people active in the publication at that time. They were Sudie McCormick, Peggy Bowen and I. Many things have changed since that date. We are now in all fifty states covering about one-third of the airports in the USA. For this 10th Anniversary issue, I wanted to combine all three of us again. This month's cover does just that. The photo was taken by Sudie, the pilot of the plane was me, and the cover was again generated by Peggy. We now have the original three involved with this anniversary issue and it may be the last time we can do that.

TEN YEARS!

As publisher of FLY-LOW, I am proud of the ten years and our distinguished product, our readers, advertisers, and of course our printer. Our growth was anticipated due to the tremendous response our first few issues received. The September 2001, event didn't help aviation or us much. We still see the results today of that day in aviation history. There is hope that one day aviation and the USA might return to the more relaxed aviation atmosphere that we once experienced. I remember the 1950s where bomb shelters were the rage, Russia was for sure going to send nukes over to us via missile... It did almost come to pass, but thank God the leaders of that time were aware of the consequences. For years, this country and others lived in fear of that nuclear threat. Today, we live with another fear. That fear may one day pass as did the 1950-60 nuclear fear. We can only hope and pray.

PAST, PRESENT, FUTURE



This issue will feature some of our past history, future goals, and historic moments. We never interviewed Orville Wright, but we did a great story on Al Santilli (who has since Gone West) about his years of flying, awards, and his pilot license signed by Orville. Al was a great guy (pictured with Sudie showing his license). He was almost ninety and still flying at the time of the interview in 2002. We recorded his history for future generations, as we have others. Every since the first issue, I have had each twelve months of FLY-LOW hardbound. I have given them to libraries to preserve the history and words we print. The pilots who are featured in our publication will forever be in a library somewhere in this country.

OOOOPS!

FLY-LOW's creation as a General Aviation magazine was not its original intent. It was to be an aviation shopper... but after the first issue everything changed and what we have today as FLY-LOW developed with the second issue. On page three, we salute those advertisers who have been in every issue of this publication since its birth. Without the advertisers, our FREE publication couldn't have survived September 11, 2001, or the most recent economic turndown. The good thing is that even in bad times one needs to shout (through advertising) to gain and retain business. We are proud to have them use us as their voice to reach you, the reader. We are proud to be growing in this year of twenty-ten. If someone asked of me in 2001, "Ralph, what are your intentions?" I would have replied, "To produce a magazine that is accepted by all general aviation, to grow, to survive, to be original and not a copy, to keep and make new friends through aviation." It has all come to pass.

THANK ALL OF YOU!

As I have said many times in the past, our writers, advertisers, cartoonist, readers, all come together to make for a great publication. Check out our first advertisers that have remained consistent advertisers in FLY-LOW on page three of this issue. As we celebrate our 10th Anniversary issue, my thanks go to everyone for the support of FLY-LOW and aviation. One that continues to grow! I would thank each of you personally if I could, but these words might have to do. My job as publisher is much attuned to eating chocolate ice cream and getting paid for it.

Throttle Forward and Fly-Low....



Sudie and I at a previous AirVenture in Oshkosh