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# Joseph P. Tracy Correspondence

Joseph P. Tracy

Maine State Library

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TRACY, JOSEPH R

May 1, 1976

Ms Shirley Thayer  
Specialist in Maine Materials  
Maine State Library  
Cultural Building  
Augusta, Me 04333

Dear Ms Thayer

Your letter of April 13 was forwarded by Alaska Northwest Publishing Co., Anchorage, relative to my book LOW MAN ON A GILL-NETTER.

Because of circumstances entirely beyond my mother's control, I was born in Albany instead of down in Maine. Apparently a slow train or something of that nature. So for your records, was born in Albany, N.Y., January 5, 1913. Within a few weeks was moved to Mt. Desert Ferry but, quite frankly, remember nothing of that outstanding event. Possibly I was not paying attention.

Currently my home address is: Snug Harbor Park #4  
4425 Meridian Avenue  
Marysville, Wash 98270

To date, three of my books have been published: DOC FLIGHTY, Aero Publishers Inc. Fallbrook, Calif. FUN WITH FERRIES, Robinson Publishing Co., Everett, Wa. LOW MAN ON A GILL-NETTER, Alaska Northwest Publishing Co., Anchorage.

Biographical Information:

Mt. Desert Ferry was my first real home. Attended the local school which had 8-grades in one room. Finally wound up in Los Angeles where I went to USC and studied Aeronautical Engineering.

Learned to fly in LA and passed the tests for a Private Pilot's license on my 16th birthday. For a few months I was the youngest licensed pilot in the United States. Barnstormed through the mid-west for a while, nearly starving because of the depression and wound up in the Army Air Corps in 1934. Was sent to the Philippines. Returned to the states in the fall of 1937.

(2)

Actually 1938 was a noteworthy year. Went to work for Boston-Maine-Central Vermont Airways (soon to become Northeast Airlines). On July 4th, married Ellen V. Fisher of Bangor (sister of Doctor Dean Fisher) and shortly thereafter assumed the duties of Station Manager at the Auburn airport. Our first daughter was born in Lewiston.

Went with the Spartan School of Aeronautics, Tulsa, Okla. in order to get back into active flying. My first class consisted of Chinese students. Now THAT was a challenge! Then World War Twice came along and I was called to active duty immediately.

Four years later and still intact, went back to Bangor. Worked with (now General) Phil Tukey, organizing the Maine Air National Guard. Then Korea came along.

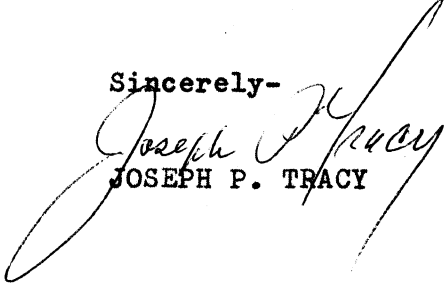
In 1952 was transferred to the Directorate of Flight Safety Research, San Bernardino, Calif. My assignment was Editor, FLYING SAFETY MAGAZINE, a semi-slick with 100,000 monthly circulation. After three years was sent to Tokyo as Editor, Far East Air Forces FLYER magazine then to Honolulu where the magazine was re-designated PACIFIC AIR FORCES (PACAF) FLYER.

Returned to the U.S. in July 1959 and took over MISSILE SAFETY publications. Finally in February 1963 was retired and went to work with the Boeing Co., in Seattle. While with them, wrote and directed some two-dozen technical films for the 747 program. One day while flying with the project pilot I noted, "This is my anniversary. I made my first solo flight 40-years ago today!"

Upon leaving Boeing, started serious writing. In a sense, that has been almost as much fun as flying.

For your information, Mrs. Tracy and I will be driving back to Bucksport about the middle of this month and I'll make an effort to drop in and see you. Feel free to use any of this background material that may serve your Maine Authors Collection.

Sincerely-

  
JOSEPH P. TRACY