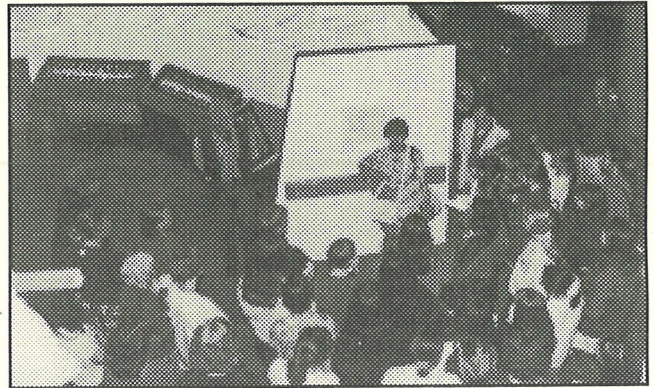


Eileen Collins glides into NSM orbit in July

Mixed in with the holiday tourist traffic of Independence Day weekend, a very important visitor slipped in to the Museum for a quiet tour of sailplane history with her family. But Air Force Lt. Col. Eileen Collins, first woman pilot of the Space Shuttle in early 1995, and Elmira's hometown heroine, didn't escape without a few words to a visiting school group. The students from Spencer Van Etten (NY) High School



and several dozen British exchange students were delighted to greet her and asked numerous questions of the space traveler (see photo above). Collins also took time to pose inside the EOGASE exhibit (*Evolution of Gliders and Sailplanes Exhibit*) with her husband, Pat Youngs; their daughter, Bridget Marie Youngs; and her mother, Rose Marie Collins (photo at left).



Inside this issue:

NSM membership now offers Premium Pass gifts....pg 3

Hawaii Landmark of Soaring and annual Barnaby Lecture...pg 7

July events keep Museum staff busy

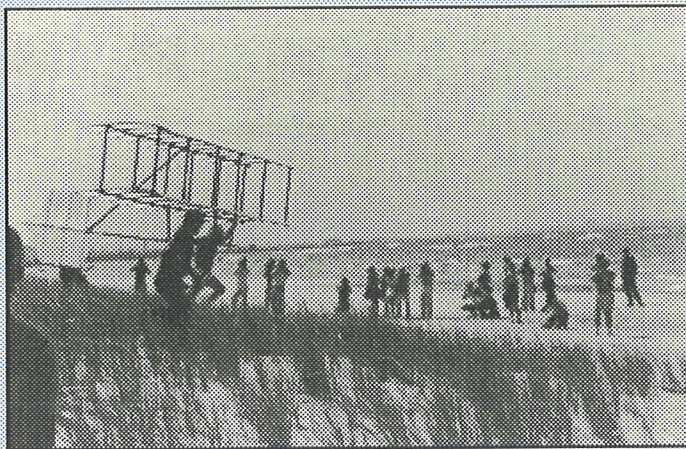
In the busiest weekend of the 1996 summer, the NSM staff and trustees split up to cover two events on July 26-28 which were held 1,000 miles apart.

Executive Director James W. Swinnich, Trustees Jan Scott, Bernald Smith, Gene Hammond and Jeffery

Byard, and Landmark Chairperson Simine Short attended the eighth National Landmark of Soaring at Miller Beach in Gary, IN. Meanwhile, Director of Museum Services Mary Flaspahler, Trustees Paul A. Schweizer, Howard Burr and John (Corky) Gill and the rest of the NSM

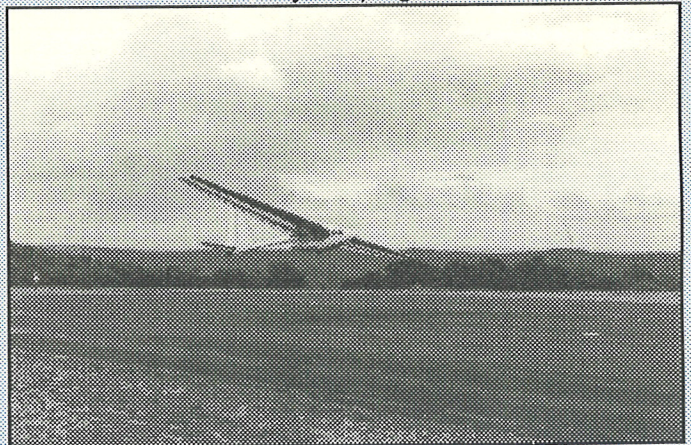
staff hosted the Eastern Workshop of the Sailplane Homebuilders Association at the Museum.

Two events...two weekends' worth of activities and happy soaring enthusiasts. For more information on both of these events, see inside pages as listed below.



R.I.T. glider takes flight in Gary, IN
see story on page 2

Carbon Dragon prototype flies off Harris Hill see story on pages 4-5



NSM dedicates its eighth landmark

The National Soaring Museum is dedicating three National Landmarks of Soaring (NLS) during 1996 - San Diego, CA on April 27, Gary, IN on July 27 and Oahu, HI on December 8 (*see story on page 7*). These are the first dedications since the one held at Waynesboro, VA on September 17, 1993.

But the Eighth NLS at Miller Beach in Gary, IN, was the best that NSM Executive Director James W. Swinnich has seen because "its scope included the entire community."

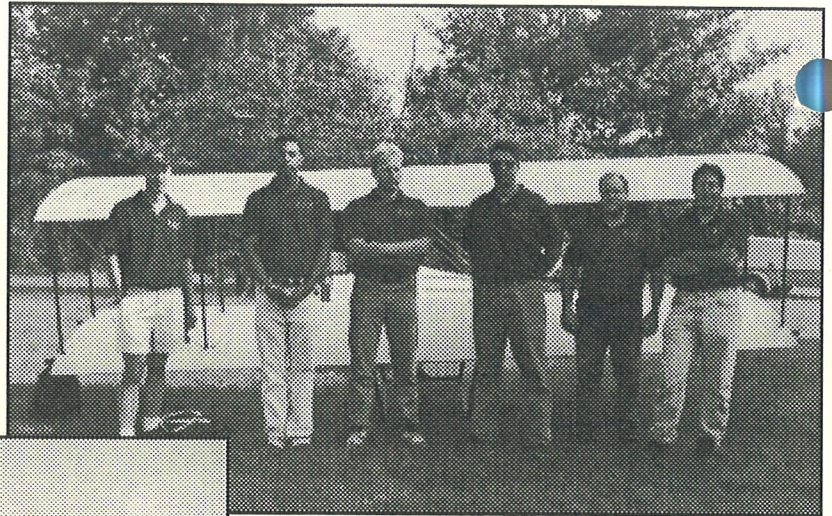
"You have to go beyond the soaring community to make (the landmark program) work and make people aware of why it's there," Swinnich said. The Gary landmark honors Octave Chanute and his assistants whose gliding experiments in 1896 made sustained flight a reality.

To celebrate the Chanute centennial, numerous aviation enthusiasts were invited to participate. These included representatives from the Western Society of Engineers and the Aquatorium Society, the mayor of Gary, a Tuskegee airman, teachers and students from Orono, ME and R.I.T. in Rochester, NY, an aeronautics expert from the Smithsonian Institution and two Chanute biplane replicas - one built in Seattle, WA and the other in Rochester, NY.

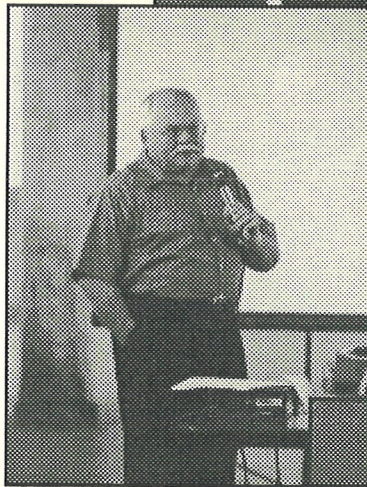
The Western Society of Engineers boasts Chanute as one of their past presidents who addressed the group on a number of occasions. The Aquatorium Society provided a beautiful setting for the ceremony. It overlooks Lake Michigan and is being refurbished to hold displays on Chanute and the Tuskegee airmen, black WWII fighter pilots from Tuskegee University in Alabama. The landmark plaque was placed in a garden just outside the building.

Glider mail flight is a highlight of each landmark dedication. This time Tuskegee airman Marshall Knox flew the mail.

Sixth grade teacher Chris



Above, a class of Rochester R.I.T. senior design students stand with their Chanute glider. Left to right are: Dr. Kevin Kochersberger, Dale Davis, John Lanzoni, Matt Lyon, and Gerald Guadagno. Left, Dr. Tom Crouch speaks of Chanute as a pioneer of flight.



Chillelli and his class from Orono, ME brought a video of them flying their Chanute replica in Maine. Chris and two other teachers involve their teenagers each year in hands-on learning like the construction of an actual Chanute. Three years ago his class built a 1902 Wright Flyer and brought it to Harris Hill for an attempted flight on Community Soaring Day.

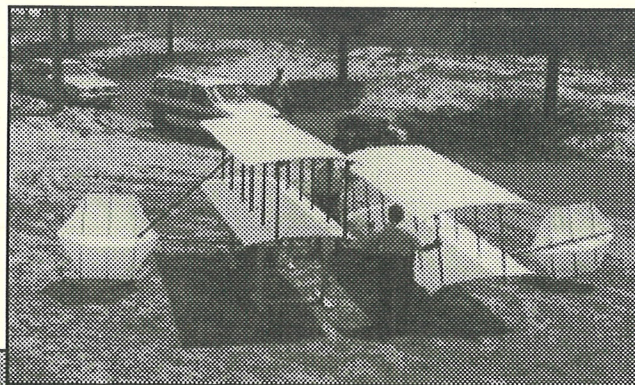
Paul Dees, Seattle, WA, built a Chanute biplane replica last year after researching the craft for the past four years. Swinnich said Dees flew his glider a couple miles from the site the day prior to the event. The dunes on the beach were 100 feet high when Chanute did his glider experiments. Today they are only 20 feet and the dune grass has spread, making take-off more difficult.

A second Chanute replica, built by R.I.T. students from Rochester, NY under the direction of professor Dr. Kevin Kochersberger, was flown at the dedication. Swinnich says the wind was striking the beach at an angle that day, so Kevin had to run sideways down the dunes directly into the wind. When he jumped and pulled his feet off the ground, the crowd, numbering around 200, particularly enjoyed the performance. This glider was later delivered to the NSM for display.

The day featured Dr. Tom Crouch, Chair of the Department of Aeronautics at the National Air & Space Museum, Smithsonian Institution, who talked on "Octave Chanute, Pioneer of Flight." Swinnich said he learned

a lot more of the details on the modifications that took place in the early gliders and also of the interpersonal relationships of early aero pioneers Augustus Herring, Octave Chanute, and Paul Butusov.

The ceremony included some of Chanute's descendants. Various restaurants created a festive mood with music and food tasting tab



Above, two Chanute replicas, the one on the left made by Paul Dees and the one on the right by R.I.T. students. Left, the R.I.T. glider attempts flight.

