

Model airplanes at Ellington library mark 100 years of flight

By Sarah Netter

Journal Inquirer

ELLINGTON — If you go into Hall Memorial Library this month, make sure to look up.

Suspended from the ceiling are 12 quarter-scale, World War I-era airplanes, which blow gently in the breeze created by the opening of the library doors.

The model airplanes, which are radio-controlled and gasoline-powered, were donated by the Ellington-based Northern Connecticut Radio Control Club for a month-long observance of the 100th anniversary of flight.

The planes, which will be on display through Dec. 31, have drawn dozens of visitors to Hall Memorial Library, director Susan Phillips said Monday.

"They look up and their eyes get big and their mouths drop open," she said, adding that the planes are not just child's play. "There were a lot more adults. It's a family kind of thing, I guess."

Robert LaFlamme of Enfield, the president of the radio-control club, built several of the planes on display at the library. He began modeling airplanes 20 years ago after a move to Switzerland left him searching for a hobby.

"It's really relaxing," he said Tuesday. "I had done it as a kid years and years ago."

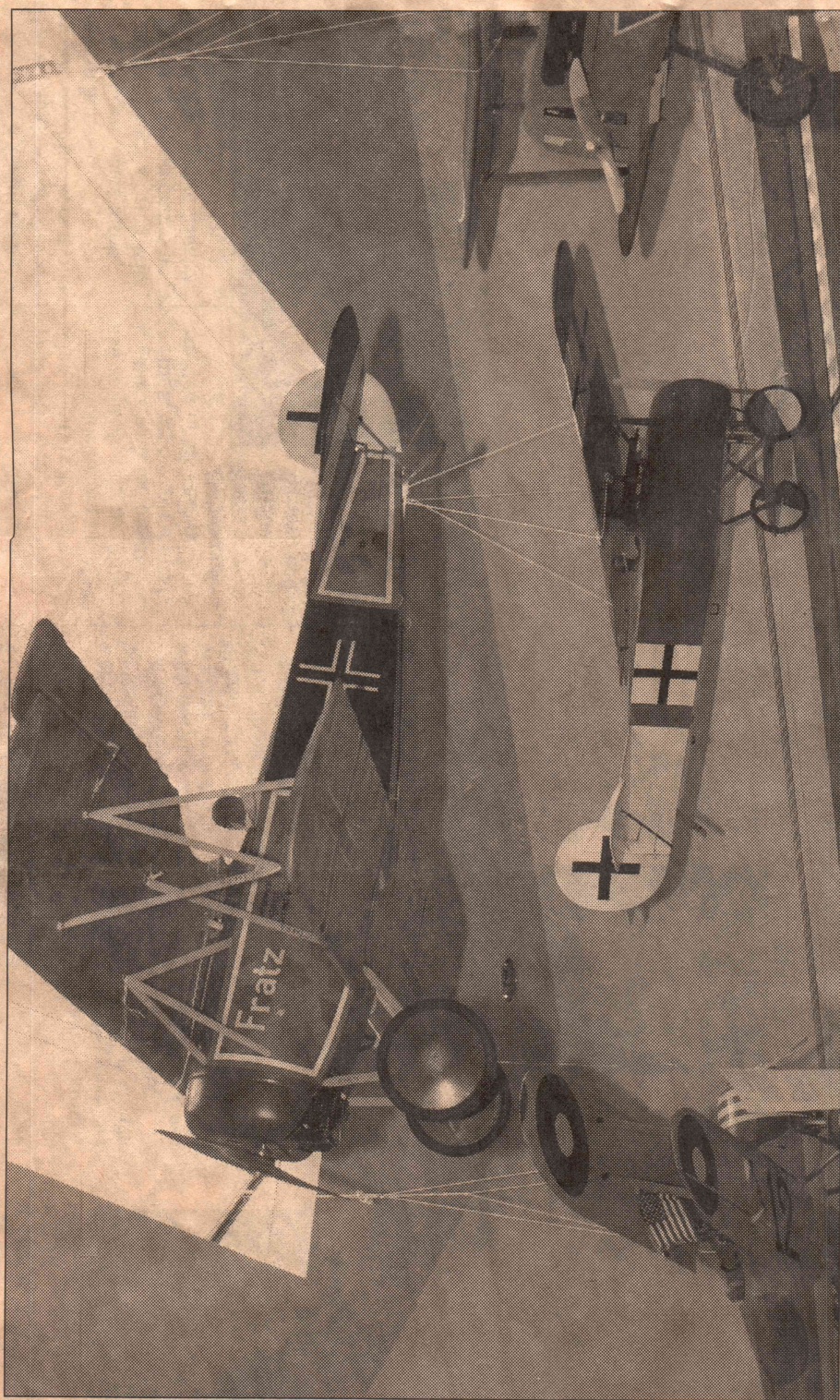
The club was formed in 1963 and now includes some 170 airplane enthusiasts, mostly men, LaFlamme said, adding that there is still one original member in the club. Members range from 10-year-olds to men in their 80s, he said.

The club has seen a boom in growth since buying 40 acres off Green Road in 2001. It isn't easy to find a spacious and safe place to fly the airplanes, LaFlamme explained, and many smaller clubs have been forced to shut down because of a lack of flying space.

"Clubs that own their own fields experience a lot of growth," he said.

The club's planes range in size from 12 inches to 10 feet, LaFlamme said. While many members create their planes from plans and kits, some do their own design work.

The club approached Phillips about creat-



Irena Pastorello / Journal Inquirer

Model planes hang from the ceiling at the Hall Memorial Library in Ellington.

ing a display at the library. It was planned in October to coincide with last week's anniversary of Wilbur and Orville Wright's first flight in 1903.

Phillips said the library set out several adult and children's books on airplanes and the Wright brothers. But they were all checked out by the end of the display's first week.

There are eight planes downstairs and four upstairs in the children's section.

Downstairs, LaFlamme's quarter-scale Nieuport Type 28 sways gently in a group of

several planes.

The Nieuport was rejected by the French Air Service as a front-line fighter in World War I. The single-seat plane was instead supplied to the American Expeditionary Air Force in 1918 and was the first airplane to carry the United States colors into combat.

Upstairs, a white, quarter-scale Etrich Taube designed by Dale White, of Vernon, hangs alongside three other planes.

Originally designed by Austrian engineer Igo Etrich, the Taube first flew in 1910 and was used for sporting purposes until the out-

break of World War I, when it was used for observation and training by German and Austro-Hungarian forces.

The plane was named Taube — German for pigeon or dove — because its wings are shaped like a bird's. Ironically, although the dove is a symbol of peace, the Taube was the first plane to drop bombs in the war.

Phillips and LaFlamme said they are hoping to offer a springtime class at the library for people interested in creating model airplanes. The class is still in the development stages, and no dates have been set.

Just one dance, Hugh?

A shocked Hugh Grant fled a Bangkok bar chased by dozens of hookers trying to grab him.

The movie heart-throb ventured in for a drink with two minders and ended up fleeing. The Sun of London reports.

Hugh, 43 — in Thailand filming the sequel to “Bridget Jones’s Diary” — managed to down only one beer before two girls dancing in bikinis recognized him and lept from the stage.

They made a beeline for the star. A horde of others taking a break between dances joined them.



GRANT

One of the girls said, “The girls were dancing to ‘One Night In Bangkok.’ They jumped from the stage and went straight for him together with the others.”

Hugh, who was famously arrested in his car with

Hollywood hooker **Divine Brown**, had gone with his bodyguards to a street called **Soi Cowboy** — notorious for its go-go bars, naked dancers, and

transvestites.

When will Hugh learn to stay away from the back alley girls and beg **Elizabeth Hurley** to take him back?



Compiled by Chuck Ballerino and Gina Laird

Today’s Birthdays

Singer-bassist **Lemmy** of **Motorhead** is 58. Actor **Clay A. Lyle** is 58. Actor **Clay A. Lyle** is 58.

Jen feted for hair

New love for Minnie, Matt

Minnie Driver’s search for Mr. Right continues. Just weeks after breaking up with tennis ace **Robby Ginepro**, the actress has been spied with music exec **Rob Walker**, reports the *London Mirror*. “They’ve been together for about three weeks and are having a real go at making it a proper relationship,” one of Minnie’s chatty friends tells the paper. Minnie, 33, met Rob last month at a **Nepheunes** concert in London.

Meanwhile, *Us Weekly* reports Minnie’s ex, **Matt Damon**, has a new girlfriend. Details are sketchy, but she’s apparently a single mom. The Oscar winner, who broke up with long-term galpal **Odessa Whitnir** a couple of months ago and has previously romanced **Winona Ryder**, recently told *USA Today* that he’s sworn off dating celebrities, insisting fame “would be a deal-breaker.”



DAMON

Emma, 18, was furious that her long-term sweetheart **Kyle Johnson** had cheated on her with the singing sensation. “I’m really upset. Charlotte has spilt everything for me,” Verery said in Briton tongue. Verery, a hairdresser by trade, said Kyle, 18, has a fiery temper, and was charged early this year with assault. The case was dismissed.

Emma also sent a message to Charlotte, saying, “He cheated on me and he’ll cheat on you. He’s bad news as far as women are concerned.”

More catfights

What would *Take 6* be without our “Catfight of the Day?” The combatants: Brit teen beauty **Emma Verery**, who told *The Sun* Monday how singer **Charlotte Church** stole her boyfriend. “I hate her for what she’s done,” Verery said. “She may be a millionaire but she’s not as pretty as me.”



BASINGER

War of the roses

Kim Basinger has fired the man called in to settle her divorce from film star **Alec Baldwin**. The *Daily Mail* of London reports. The couple were working with an arbiter to avoid legal fees and headlines that might embarrass their 8-year-old daughter, **Ireland**.

Now, the couple face a public trial next year. A friend of Baldwin said, “He was trying to protect his daughter. But, once the arbiter started ruling against Kim, she found a loophole and had him fired.” Basinger’s publicist said the case would end up in court if Baldwin did not accept a report by an independent evaluator.

The report recommended Basinger, 50, have custody of Ireland while Baldwin had visiting rights.



LOTTERY

CONNECTICUT

Midday 3 Midday 4

Tuesday, Dec. 23 7 50 10 12

Monday, Dec. 22 9 85 07 92

Friday, Dec. 19 5 96 09 21

Thursday, Dec. 18 2 27 73 93

Wednesday, Dec. 17 3 82 38 33

Play 3 Play 4

Tuesday, Dec. 23 1 91 53 68

Monday, Dec. 22 0 28 83 81

Sunday, Dec. 21 8 13 13 60

Saturday, Dec. 20 5 13 55 47

Friday, Dec. 19 1 46 51 31

Thursday, Dec. 18 1 71 03 80

Wednesday, Dec. 17 7 10 68 93

Cash 5

Tuesday, Dec. 23 7 12 13 20

Monday, Dec. 22 1 7 13 17

Sunday, Dec. 21 13 20 23 24

Saturday, Dec. 20 6 12 20 22

Friday, Dec. 19 20 22 32 34

Thursday, Dec. 18 8 9 13 22

Wednesday, Dec. 17 2 5 8 16

Powerball

Saturday, Dec. 13 20 24 25 41

Wednesday, Dec. 15 18 19 21 4

Classic Lot

Tuesday, Dec. 13 16 20 24

Friday, Dec. 1 3 10 3

MASSACHUSETTS

Daily Num. 30