

Some Chapter 88 History ...



**(Back row standing) Bob Barnes, George Lytle, Unknown, and Bob Barnes' son.  
(Front row kneeling) Don MacDonald, Unknown, and Clarence Landowski.**

This photo came to me several years ago from Clarence Landowski, one of the charter members of IAC Chapter 88. Since the Chapter originated in 1973, this photo was probably taken in the middle to later 1970's. As you can see, the background shows Lamont Airport, which was near Deckerville, Michigan - in the "Thumb". Glenn Lamont owned (I believe) the airport, and his claim to fame was owning and restoring a B-25 bomber. I don't recall why the group was there, but project visitations were sometimes the subject of chapter meetings. I don't see the airport shown on the latest Detroit Sectional chart. Something about two of the people in the photo before remembering George Lytle. Bob Barnes was the first certified judge that we had in the chapter. You couldn't believe how small the rule book was back then. Regarding Clarence Landowski, when the United States

---

bicentennial was celebrated in 1976, Clarence purchased a vanity license plate from the State of Michigan which read: EAA-IAC. A real booster.

I had probably gotten to the meeting in the rear seat of George Lytle's Citabria. George had purchased the airplane brand new (for slightly over \$7000.), after having owned two Waco UPF-7's. George was my next door neighbor in Royal Oak when we purchased our first house there (used, for \$17,250.) I thought that you should have some perspective of the times. Anyway, George liked company on his Saturday morning flights and I spent many hours reading the sectional chart and matching up the landmarks on the ground. The week-end flights were usually preceded with coffee at the airport, and lunch after the Citabria was hangared; always including a social aspect that we all appreciate. George was probably instrumental in me learning to fly and getting a pilots license. My wife, Mary K., saw my interest and bought me a gift certificate for one flying lesson for Christmas in 1970. She purchased it from Berz Flying Service, now Oakland-Troy Airport. Ted Berz was my instructor and he lived across the street from us. A happy confluence of aviators and my eternal thanks to Mary K., George and Ted . Mary K. probably couldn't envision where a \$26. per hour purchase (more perspective) would lead, but here we are.

Gunter, you asked for a story to go with the photo. I guess that when I got started, my memory bank really kicked in. All of us loved George Lytle and he, along with Dan's father, Bill Unger, started IAC Chapter 88. Thanks for the opportunity to reminisce and Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all.

*Don MacDonald*

IAC #2621; EAA # 67901