

5/16/17

Capt. Billy Jr.

Sir,

My name is Larry Morasch I was born in 1937. Occasionally I search aviation related sites and names of pilots I knew. Your Blog jumped out to me immediately. It is an incredible site, one of the best if not the best I have ever seen. Alvene and Carl Litzenberger were born in my little home town of Endicott WA. I learned a lot about them from early on. Carl Litz got my dad in trouble in the 4th grade. He told dad to put the girls pig tail in the ink well. It was a rural one room school house for all grades at Dusty WA near where they farmed. He did and the teacher sent him home. He never went back to school, helped his father with field work and horses.

Their cousin Raymond Litz was also learning to fly in the late 30's early 40's. His father owned the Tavern/Pool Hall in Endicott. When Ray was flying his J-3 I use to watch him loop and spin that thing all the way to the ground kick it out and then go back up and do it all over again. One day my Uncle Carl Poffenroth drove by my house and saw me in the yard. He called out to me and I jumped in his delivery truck and we headed out of Endicott. About a mile or so Ray and just landed in Walt Lusts stubble field. We walked up to him and he reached in the back seat and pulled out the stick and laid it down on the floor to one side. Uncle Carl got in and Ray helped me in and stood me up between Uncle Carl's legs. He put the seat belt around me and Uncle Carl. Ray pointed down to the pedals and said now keep your feet away from them.

We took off and flew over Endicott and circled around and landed. Uncle Carl said now don't tell your mother you went flying. Well when we got home Uncle Carl took me in and I said mama I saw lots of pig houses today. The farmers that raised a few hogs had A frame covers. The sows lay under them when it was sunny and foul weather. That's what the town looked like to me. My mother looked at my Uncle and she said you did not take him flying did you? The smile on his face gave it away. All my uncles left for the Military shortly after that. Ray went on to fly for NW Airlines from the early 40's when it was annexed by the Military and worked his way up to Chief Pilot. He flew DC-3s, 4,s 6,s, Stratocruiser's, and 707's. When the 747s came out he gave up the Chief Pilot position went back to flying and flew the Orient run.

My father had a Garage Shop in Endicott and worked on the farmer's tractors, combines engines, trucks, etc. In the early 40's Alvene and Carl would come home for a week or two to help harvest wheat. I rode out with dad on a service call. I was about 5 -6 years old. That was my first contact with them. I would hear the people in town talking about them.