

EVERETT J. BLAZEY, JR.

1929 - 1991

EVERETT J. BLAZEY, JR.
HE LOVED TO FLY



Everett J. Blazezy, Jr., 1929 - 1991. "Junior" and his father, Everett Sr., built the Victor-Farmington Airport on the family farm. After WWII Bud Smith and Sherwin Smith operated the airport as a commercial venture providing airplane rentals and flight instruction. Bud gave Junior his primary flight instruction. In 1946, Junior and his father purchased a new Aeronca Chief and flew it home from the factory. Most of Junior's flying was from one hay lot to the next as he visited neighbor farmers.

Junior also logged quite a bit of cross-country time between Farmington, NY and Berlin, NH, the home of the future Mrs. Blazezy, Ann Marrer. The flights over the White Mountains were quite a task for the Chief, and sometimes following the valleys was necessary. Ann started taking flying lessons but stopped when she became pregnant with Mark, the oldest son. After the boys were grown she resumed the lessons and became a private pilot in 1978.

The family farm gave way to development and the Victor-Farmington Airport was closed in 1960. One of Junior's most regretted decisions was to sell the beloved Chief in 1961. For a few years Junior rented Aeroncas and Pipers from Wally McAnn in Canandaigua and Bill Gill in Palmyra, but his flying tapered off. In the middle 1970s sons Scott & Brian became pilots and Junior began flying again. In 1977 a Cessna 150 took the place of the Chief. The 150 didn't have the character the Chief once did, but it had more power and seemed more practical. In late 1978 Ann was giving a friend her first airplane ride when the engine began to run rough. Not wishing to frighten her friend Ann pretended it was normal, but wasted no time and landed at the Canandaigua Airport. The diagnosis was a bad piston.

During the next year Junior spent his spare time working with Ann and Brian rebuilding the engine and refurbishing the airframe, including new paint and interior. Junior was an excellent mechanic, having operated his own service station for about 15 years. In early 1979 the 150 was back in the air.

In 1980 Junior and Brian built their second airport in the Town of Farmington. The New Salem Aerodrome became home to the 150.

