

Horizons

Audrey Poberezny shares memories, present joys



Northwestern photo by Michele Barbieri
Audrey Poberezny

By JO ZORR
of the Northwestern

Audrey and Paul Poberezny hitched their wagon to a star a long time ago, and she says it's been one wonderful ride.

Married 44 years, they're past the whirlwind struggle and enjoying the golden years.

"I see more of Paul now than I ever did," she says. And that pleases the wife of the man who started the Experimental Aircraft Association.

It was Audrey who kept the home fires burning during their children's growing-up years. Paul was a maintenance officer and test pilot in the Wisconsin Air National Guard and was gone a lot, often in Germany.

Their's was a three-generation household. Her mother, Lillian Ruesch, made her home with the young family.

"When we were married, Paul insisted my mother live with us. I was an only child, and my father died when I was 14."

When her mother retired from the telephone company, she did all the cooking.

With childlike honesty, the Poberezny's children, Tom and Bonnie, let their mother know they thought "Grandma's cooking is best."

Recalling the close relationship between her mother and her husband, she said, "She even polished Paul's shoes."

Audrey spoke candidly about their children and the EAA literally growing up together in the same house. Sometimes she thought the organization of aviation enthusiasts took as much nurturing as the children.

Easy to talk to, Mrs. Poberezny laughs recalling the early days when the club members met in her basement.

Visions of aviation enthusiasts ducking under clotheslines of laundry were very real. "We didn't have dryers back then."

The couple had been high school sweethearts,

and their talents dovetailed nicely. He had the dream, she did the typing ... and everything else. He's been heard to acknowledge more than once that she's "the brains of the outfit."

Starting as a messenger for Northwestern Mutual Insurance Company in Milwaukee, she worked her way up to secretary.

Her eyes alight with fond memories, she said it was a wonderful place to work. "In the employee dining room we were served by waitresses. But at that time, you couldn't work after you were married."

It was after a party she and Paul attended with her old friends from the office that she realized she'd have to cultivate Paul's friends.

"I kept trying to get him into the conversation, but he wasn't interested in football, hunting or fishing."

That's the biggest change she's seen in him over the years.

"Now he can talk to anyone."

Her office skills proved indispensable to the fledgling flying club that evolved into today's EAA membership of 120,000 strong.

"I'd cut mimeograph stencils for the first newsletters at home, and he'd take them to the base and have them run off. When we added pictures, we'd staple them in place, and then do the mailing."

She smiles, reflecting about the organization's growth. "I was the one who was afraid. I couldn't envision us having property and buildings and hiring a staff."

Today, their son Tom is chairman of the annual convention and president of the EAA Aviation Foundation. Bonnie lives in Texas with her husband, Bud Judy, a pilot with Delta Airlines. She spends her summers volunteering at the EAA, and was with her mother in the new Guest Relations building on the grounds, when Audrey was being interviewed.

From the time was a small child, Bonnie thought it was fun to help her mother with office work for EAA.

"I started filing when I was 5 years old."

On her 16th birthday she passed her behind-the-wheel driving test for her Wisconsin driver's license in the morning and soloed in an airplane in the afternoon. Before moving to Texas, she worked at whatever EAA job needed to be done.

It took her brother until he was in college to want to learn to fly.

"He was very athletic and busy playing basketball and football in high school," Bonnie said.

In recent years Audrey has gone along with Paul on many of his flights near and far.

Her one jaunt to Europe was particularly delightful.

More recently, she and Paul went to Hawaii with Bonnie, Bud and Audra. They paid a visit to Charles Lindbergh's grave in Maui's high country. "It is a secluded spot, calm and serene, with a tiny chapel nearby."

Even Paul wasn't fidgety on the trip. "He's mellowed. When you get older, you think about the time you have left."

Among her greatest EAA pleasures are the many times she's made it easier for others to enjoy a convention or airshow. She's learned to savor the memories of the hard working, caring people that make the organization what it is — and to overlook the rest.

Audrey delights in seeing Tom's and Bonnie's daughters, Leslie Poberezny and Audra Judy cavort around their king size playground, the EAA convention grounds.

They don't know that other little girls are content with a sandbox and a swing.

Bonnie says 5-year-old Audra can already recognize the instrument panel of a B-17.

"I look at her and think, 'She's a carbon copy of dad.'"

'Cabaret' portrays turbulent days in Germany before World War II

By JO BARTELS ALDERSON
Special to the Northwestern

NEENAH — The attractive-sounding but ill-conceived advice to "come to the cabaret, old chum; life is a cabaret," is being delivered with aplomb by the Riverside Players at Theatre in the Park in Neenah.

A talented cast under the direction of Jim Hart takes the audience back to pre-Nazi Germany, just before Adolf Hitler's rise to power and the plummeting of Germany and the world into the abyss of World War II.

From the moment the emcee, played with flair by Ron Lindberg, greets the audience with "Wilkommen," the show runs smoothly and swiftly despite many scene and set changes. Moving the set pieces had obviously been rehearsed, and the stage transformations are accomplished with minimum time and stir. Sets are simple but effective. The decor of the Kit Kat Klub perhaps holds a mirror to ourselves.

Both Joe Norby as Clifford Bradshaw and beautiful Toni Tobin as Sally Bowles are excellently cast and convincing in

every detail. Both are dramatically strong and also have strong singing voices. Ms. Tobin's rendition of the title song is a highlight of the show.

Val Lueck as Fraulein Schneider and Dick Hamilton as Herr Schultz are audience pleasers. Not only do they provide some excellent comedy; but

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the effects of growing anti-Semitism on this gentle, loving couple give illustration of how innocent bystanders were, and still are, crushed by world circumstances.

Hamilton's sensitive portrayal makes his situation especially poignant; and Ms. Lueck's vocal number, "What Would You Do?," impacts with powerful reality.

Dave Hendrickson is outstanding as Ernst Ludwig. His intensity and unflinching concentration create such realism that he evokes all too vivid memories of real people of that type and time.

Kathy Kressner, as Fraulein Kost, also has a good grip on her character, and one can under-

stand the transition in her.

Indeed, the transition which occurs in some cases but not in others is the show's most serious problem. It is, perhaps, not fair to fault actors for being too young to remember or understand Adolf Hitler; but that lack, in this particular show, creates unfortunate inconsistencies. While main characters clearly understand and try to build the sense of foreboding required to make a sensible conclusion, many chorus members did not seem to do so.

"Tomorrow Belongs to Me" did not grow ever more vicious to reveal their deep underlying anger and show why they could support an undeniable madman.

On the lighter side, however, the chorus does an excellent job with song and dance numbers and with maintaining their characters through scenes and scene changes. They deliver some fine entertainment.

Accents by the entire "German" cast are generally very well done.

"Cabaret" will be repeated tonight, Saturday, Sunday and Monday, and Aug. 10-13 at 8:15 p.m.



Northwestern photo

Members of Oshkosh chapters of Beta Sigma Phi held a tea for members attending the Experimental Aircraft Convention and Fly-In. Shown looking at the chapter

Meeting sisters

scrapbook at the home of Judy Seibold are (from the left) Kay Wickert of Oshkosh, Theodora Bach, Carbondale, Ill., and Wynn Dias, Lakeland, Fla.

All on her own: Woman pilot plans global peace flight

By SUZANNE LEHMAN
of the Northwestern

"You don't have to be young and male to have an exciting life and do all the things you want to do," says Experimental Aircraft Association enthusiast Marjorie Van Vliet.

Ms. Van Vliet is a woman with a mission. At age 65, she is planning to fly a single-engine plane around the globe in a personal effort to promote world peace. Her flight will make her the oldest woman to fly around the world alone and the first general aviation pilot to fly across the Soviet Union.

Her trip is supported by elected officials in her home state of Rhode Island, the EAA, the Ninety-Nines and corporate sponsors.

Two years ago Ms. Van Vliet completed a flight across the United States on behalf of CASA, an advocacy group for abused and neglected children. Now, as an active Citizen at Work for World Peace, she plans to expand her activities with "80 Days Around the World" in 1989.

A private pilot with aerobatic experience in addition to her instrument and commercial ratings, she is a professor of English at the Community College of Rhode Island in Warwick and a professional photographer.

Ms. Van Vliet spoke at a recent workshop at the EAA convention. She was wearing a T-shirt of her own design depicting a dove encircling the globe.

Since her husband died 25 years ago, she has

"been learning to be myself, without a husband."

She was 55 years old when she learned to fly.

"I have found (that at any time of life) you can change your self-image and the way you feel about yourself," Ms. Van Vliet said. "It gave me a tremendous sense of power, and it changed my life."

Her goal of promoting international understanding rests on the firm belief that one-to-one contacts between ordinary citizens are what make the difference.

It was the late President Dwight Eisenhower, she recalled, who said that when the people lead (in demanding peace), the governments will follow.

"We need to do a lot of 'people-leading,'" she said. "I believe that if hundreds of thousands of people in America and hundreds of thousands in the Soviet Union become close friends, it would be more difficult for our governments to wage war."

At air shows around the country, she has discovered that "Americans and Soviets pilots are absolutely fascinated with each other ... I have found there is a tremendous warmth between them."

Ms. Van Vliet will begin her four-month journey in late March 1989 when she leaves Providence, R.I., for the west coast of the U.S.

From San Diego, she will fly to Mexico, then along the north coast of South America, across the Atlantic to West Africa, then to several Medi-

terranean countries before arriving in the Soviet Union.

Among her challenges will be the long flight across the Soviet Union and the often hazardous flying conditions over the mountains of Alaska.

Along the way, Ms. Van Vliet will exchange ideas with individuals working for peace in a variety of ways.

In Moscow, she will visit women who joined the Russian Air Force in 1941 as the Nazis swept into the Soviet Union. Known as the "Night Witches," these volunteers made up three all-woman regiments who served as pilots defending their homeland against the German invaders.

She will also highlight the efforts of general aviation pilots who work for humanitarian organizations. One of them, Wings of Hope, provides disaster relief and medical transportation to needy individuals in underdeveloped countries.

On a more personal note, she will carry hundreds of letters from American youngsters to Russian children looking for pen pals in the U.S.

When she returns, she plans to produce an illustrated book on her adventures and to lecture in the U.S. and Canada. The 1989 EAA convention is definitely on the agenda.

"Peace is a major issue of our time," Ms. Van Vliet said. "I believe we can take one small step toward peace by encouraging friendships among the 'ordinary' citizens of the world ... If we don't keep the peace, we face the ultimate environmental disaster."



Northwestern photo by Dick Meyer
Marjorie Van Vliet



Almost coping

By TERRI AUCHTER

George Bush and Michael Dukakis are hitting the campaign trail in earnest now. They're giving one rousing speech after another.

In fact, they've both been vying for the insomniac's vote. People who haven't slept well in years are tuning into their speeches and in just minutes are sound asleep.

There's something about them both that seems to inspire yawns in people. People who were alert

and wide awake just minutes before are suddenly snoring as soon as they start orating.

But despite their lack of charisma, each of them has great attributes. They're called Barbara and Kitty.

Because no matter what side you're on, you have to admit both women are articulate, intelligent and interesting.

Barbara Bush was being interviewed and was asked how it felt to be famous.

She replied she had been at a

big reception in her honor and as she stood in the receiving line some people greeted her saying, "Hello, Mrs. Schulz." Others said, "It's good to meet you, Mrs. Meese." And a few said, "Welcome to our country."

Barbara, laughing, said so much for being famous. She also cheerfully acknowledged that she is neither beautiful nor thin.

It takes a lady who is happy with herself to admit on national TV that she is often mistaken for

George's mother. Asked if she would dye her white hair to look younger, she said never. "The only color I would ever dye it is green for St. Patrick's Day and then only if I were running for political office."

Kitty Dukakis hit the campaign trail while still in her neck brace after recent surgery. She admitted that she and Mike don't agree on everything. That's a refreshing observation from a politician's wife. She also admitted to being a

recidivist smoker. Another candid admission, albeit, probably an unpopular one.

These two women mark a major change in wives of presidential candidates. These two won't be seen staring adoringly at hubby while he gives a speech. They will probably be making their own speeches.

I wish Barbara and Kitty were running for president. I don't think many people would sleep through their speeches.

Van Dyne native in Minnesota pageant

VAN DYNE — Susan Kay Miller of Minneapolis, the daughter of Wayne and Arlene Miller, 7451 S. Clay Road, Van Dyne, will participate in the Miss Cottage Grove Scholarship Pageant on Aug. 20.

The pageant is a preliminary for the Miss Minnesota Pageant.

Miss Miller is a graduate of Oshkosh West High School and Lowthian College in Minneapolis.