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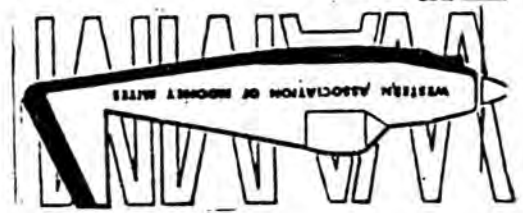
\_\_\_\_\_ Mr. Gil M. Gilbert

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TO:

1-7991

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 Chino Hills, Calif. 91709



WESTERN ASSOCIATION OF MOONEY MITES

NEWSLETTER

Subscriptions-----\$3.00

Send inquiries to Western Association of Mooney Mites:

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SKETCHES &  
CARTOONS         \_\_\_ L.A. Terrigno

The WAMM newsletter is established as a non-profit voice for the purpose of circulating information of interest or value as well as shared experiences to Mooney Mites owners and enthusiasts. In addition, it is formed in recognition that a newsletter is essential to maintain communication between mite owners in attempting flying condition preservation of the remaining single place Mooneys. The newsletter is published as enough news and information gathers to be informative to the mite owners.....

## Western Association of Mooney Mites

Vol. XVII 94/1

April 1994

Hello!! Again hello!! Welcome to "Spring" and the beginning of flying weather for most of the Mooney Mite pilots. Spring is slowly sliding its way into summer as it dusts off winter certainly as April showers bring May flowers. Spring tells WAMM members another spring get-together is around the corner for our famous flying mites. Yes, mother's day is near and the following week-end is our yearly gathering at Porterville California. To be more specific it will be the seventeenth spring mite get-together that we WAMM pilots fly our majestic aircraft for fun and mite plane talk! Info data for that week-end is outlined on other pages with dates in this issue. Take a look at it so preparation can take place for you and your airplane. Don't miss it, the spring gathering has always been an interestingly enjoyable time of Mooneys and its pilots!

### MOONEY MITE CRASH UPDATE

A few weeks ago I received a final "Summary of Occurrence" letter from the Transportation Safety Board of Canada regarding the crash and death of Kenneth Smith (WAMM member). Kenneth was killed after takeoff from his home airport on the departure to our Porterville flyin last May 1993. This is the 'Summary of Occurrence' as part of the aviation occurrence assessment report:

"The pilot had departed from a private airstrip near Calgary on a flight to California to attend a Mooney Mite owner's flyin. He had retracted the gear and was about one half of a mile from the airstrip at a low altitude when the engine lost power. The pilot was attempting a forced approach into a field ahead of and at right angles to his original heading when the aircraft descended rapidly. The right hand wingtip contacted the ground and the aircraft cartwheeled through 180 degrees before coming to a stop. The pilot sustained fatal injuries and the aircraft was substantially damaged."

The report had other pertinent information being directly relevant to the occurrence, such as:

- Flight training stressing straight ahead landings
- Pilot's attempt to glide to a field requiring a steep turn
- The fuel shutoff valve nearly fully shut off and not installed conforming to drawings
- The aircraft being 75 lbs over gross weight affecting the CG and normal stall characteristics. In addition, the aircraft (mite) had been imported with a non-standard fuel tank that almost doubled fuel capacity in aft fuselage.

In the last newsletter (Dec 93) I included an ALERT regarding the above subject; therefore, I again mention this ALERT with reference to Kenneth's tragic death!!!! M18LA & M18C mite owners be aware of your fuel shutoff valve's position at all times especially immediately after gear retraction. In addition, take care of the proper weight and balance of your particular mite prior to flight--- we cannot overstress this concern & ALERTNESS--Consider baggage as well as fuel in your CG!!!

### Mite Parts Availability:

Lycoming 0-145 engine parts & service

Contact Jess P. Hackenburg & Son at 416 Spruce st., Montoursville, Pa. 17754 (717-368-8849)

### Airplane Parts:

- 1) Contact Boyd & Dee Maddox at 3302 Golden Tee Ct, Missouri City Tx. 77459  
(713-499-2890 Home) or (713-452-5901 Bus.) or (713-431-1756 Airport)
- 2) Contact Fred Schmidt at 122 So. Main St., Camden, Ohio 45311 (513-452-3230)

Your address stickers show month/year on the last line. This indicates your last subscription donation; therefore, be reminded that all donations are appreciated. Thank you!! Again, KEEP THE MITES FLYING, your tanks full, & your gear where it belongs as necessary.....HAPPY FLYING ALWAYS AND ALL WAYS.....Oh yes, Columbia Fly-in dates are 26, 27 & 28th of August 1994 at Columbia California.....Keep these dates open!!!!!!

KEEP THE MITES FLYING

Western Association of Mooney Mites

17th Annual Mooney Get-  
Together

1994 Porterville California

at

PORTERVILLE AIRPORT

on

FRIDAY-SATURDAY-SUNDAY

in

May

on the

13th-14th-15th

Camping-Motels-Fun & Mite Mauls

**KEEP THE MITES FLYING**

**1994 17th Annual Mooney Mite  
Spring Get-Together**

**Suggested Schedule-----**

Friday - 13 May 1994

3:00 - 6:00 pm - Greetings  
6:30 - 7:00 pm - Sunset Flyby  
7:30 - until pm - Dinner & Hangar Flying

Saturday - 14 May 1994

6:30 - 7:00 am - Dawn Patrol  
7:30 - 9:30 am - Breakfast Flight  
9:30 - 12:00 am - Greeting More Arrivals  
12:00 - 1:30 pm - Lunch  
1:30 - 2:30 pm - Relaxation & Mite Talk  
2:30 - 5:00 pm - Short Flying Safari to ?????  
5:00 - 7:00 pm - Relaxation  
7:00 - until pm - Happy Hour & Dinner

Sunday - 15 May 1994

6:30 - 7:00 am - Dawn Patrol  
7:30 - 9:00 am - Breakfast  
9:00 - 12:00pm - More Mite Talk or ?????  
12:00 - pm - Lunch or/and Departures

ACCOMMODATIONS: Campout or Town Motels  
MITE MANIA FUN: Don't Miss it!!!!

**Remember - Keep The Mites Flying**

## EVERLASTING MOONEY THE MITES

Despite the fact that "Mooney Mites" fall into the category of a "classic airplane", its design platform is still alive in the 'Mooney 231' of today. Of course, what makes the hearts of many admirers beat faster when enduring a glance at the 'Mite', is remembering the past. A time when they were small enough to fit into this "classic" magic carpet.

The "Mooney Mite" possesses the qualities of enduring value which defines "classic" rather than a passing fancy.

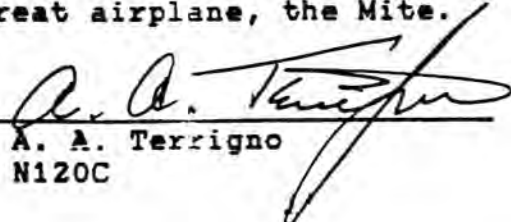
The Mooney M18, a little before its time, already a "classic", not too long before becoming an "antique", makes the mighty Mite an instant nostalgia. There is no doubt that the M18's are an aircraft from a different time in American aviation. Look at their great performance considering their low power, sleek lines, retractable gear, laminar flow wing, and reasonably tough construction for its day. Of course, she had her limitations, but if respected, the Mite gave you all she had including limited aerobatics.

The aircraft was born as part of a post war boom and designed for a small business man's magic carpet at a moderate price. The cost was around \$1995 yet despite that, she did not take in the aviation community. Today, the nostalgic sound of a small engine coughing and sputtering to life in the Mite ready for one of its inspiring flights, gives thrilling chills to many small pilots. The most dangerous aspect of the Mooney Mite is the "Walter Mitty" in all pilots thinking he's flying a P-51 peeling off for a straffing run on an "enemy" train! It has been said many times that, from a distance, the Mites when flying various flight formations appear very much like a flight of P-51s!

Today, the Mite has found its place in American aviation by those that keep it in the realm of its class, "The most fun airplane ever built" and those that continue to strive to "Keep the Mites Flying".

The M18 Mooneys have grown old with grace and deserving of the "classic" title, "The Mite", in all her grandeur.

Respectfully for Al Mooney's  
great airplane, the Mite.

  
A. A. Terrigno  
N120C