

The Mary Ann



THE MILLIONAIRES' UNIT NEWSLETTER

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Preparing To Spread The Word

Pre-Flight Fund Update

We wish to express our heartfelt gratitude to those realtives of the First Yale Unit who have come forward to support the Pre-Flight Fund. Though our fund raising efforts have just begun, we appreciate that these donors have come forward at the vanguard of our fundraising efforts. Their generosity has enabled the establishment of the non-profit enterprise *Humanus Documentary Films Foundation*, the sponsor of the film project. A distinguished board of directors from the documentary film community was assembled and in the first meeting adopted by-laws, elected officers, sponsored the film and voted to allocate a budget for web development.

Purnell Visits Davison at Peacock Point

Puck Purnell (grandson of Erl Gould), who has proven to be a tireless supporter of our efforts, recently had the good fortune to visit with Danny Davison (son of Trubee Davison) at Peacock Point. During their time together, Puck reflected on the accomplishments of the unit as he gazed upon the waters and sky where they first learned to fly. Danny and Puck visited the Trubee Davison exhibit at the *Cradle of Aviation Museum* on Long Island where there is a display devoted to the unit. Museum staff showed

great interest in the film and offered to help as the project moves forward.

Web Effort Launched

With a staff of volunteer writers and designers and the hiring of a web programmer, the *Millionaires' Unit* web site is now on the front burner. The web site, built to allow easy updating as expanded content becomes available, will serve two primary functions. The first is educational and will be a repository for First Yale Unit history; the second is to promote awareness of the documentary, give voice to the filmmakers, conduct fundraising and track the film's progress. We plan to go online within the next two months and we'll keep you posted.

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Please send tax deductible contributions to:

Humanus Documentary Films Foundation
11165 Barman Ave.
Culver City CA 90230
310-384-8104



Erl Gould

One of the original twelve Unit members, Erl was commissioned ensign on 24 March 1917 and designated Naval Aviator #68 on 31 July. He served as flight instructor and officer in command of flying at Naval Air Station Bay Shore in the summer of 1917 and test pilot for the Davis anti-sub gun. Posted to NAS Key West, he organized both the primary flight training program and an anti-sub patrol. Promoted to full lieutenant at 22, Erl was CO of Key West, the youngest officer to command a primary training station. Returning to active duty in WWII, he fought in the Pacific and received the Legion of Merit before retiring as a Rear Admiral in 1953.



THE MILLIONAIRES' UNIT
*America's Pioneer Pilots
of the Great War*