

HEINLEIN GENEALOGY

BELL FARM AND GREATER PITTSBURGH AIRPORT

- Heinleins sold their farms to John A. Bell in the early 1920's, who built a major commercial dairy farm on his 1,900 acres.
- Owner was John A. Bell from Carnegie.
- Bell Farm was later purchased by Mr. and Mrs. E. E. Reick and C. F. Nettrour
- Where were the farms in relationship for runways to Greater Pitt Airport?
- Where were the farms in relationship to Scally's Golf?
- Where were the farms in relationship to Resurrection Cemetery?

History

Early years

Until the beginning of World War II, Moon Township was mostly a rural agricultural area. It was too far from Pittsburgh to be considered the "suburb" that it is today. In the early 1920s, John A. Bell of Carnegie purchased a number of small farms in Moon and established a major commercial dairy farm on his 1,900 acres (8 km²) of land. He was bought out by Mr. and Mrs. E.E. Reick and C.F. Nettrour, owners of the established "Reick's" Dairy, who doubled the number of cattle at the farm.

Origins as air base

By 1940, the United States was becoming involved in World War II. The Works Progress Administration (WPA) identified that the Pittsburgh area needed a military airport to defend the industrial wealth of the area, and provide a training base and stop-over facility. The agricultural expanses of Moon Township were attractive to the early airport planners in the city. The WPA bought the Bell Farm and began construction of the runways.

PITTSBURGH INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT Seeking historical artifacts

Do you have old photos, airline bag tags or other memorabilia from the former Greater Pittsburgh International Airport in Moon?

The Allegheny County Airport Authority is seeking historical artifacts for the "1952 Airport Terminal Building Historic Display" in the new terminal in Findlay.

Artifacts sought are those from the time the former terminal was in operation — 1952 to 1992 — and from the original terminal construction period prior to 1952 on what had been the 1,200-acre Bell dairy farm.

All artifacts would be reviewed for content and signifi-

cance. If accepted, artifacts would be on loan for permanent or temporary display based on donor wishes.

All artifacts will be displayed in secured cases and returned to the donor.

Items could include old newspaper articles; photographs; souvenirs; airline materials such as tickets, bag tags, schedules, menus, etc.; and art and other memorabilia from the old terminal.

The site now is occupied by the Airside Business Park on Interstate 376 business loop, formerly Business Route 60.

Call 412-472-3648 or e-mail Samantha Stedford at sstedford@pitairport.com.