

## ***One-Liners . . . That Changed My Life!***

### **# 7 “*Let me tell you how I learned to fly!*”**

Because Wichita was a pioneer in building aircraft, it was perfectly positioned to play a major part in the war effort during the 1940’s. The Army sent in a veteran flyer to act as liaison officer with the aircraft companies. One of his sons and I had become good friends, and we wanted to join the Aviation Cadet program. Since this required letters of recommendation, I suggested we ask his father to write for us.

When we approached the Colonel, he readily agreed, but added, “*Let me tell you how I learned to fly.*” As I remember the story, it was about 1913 and the air age was just beginning. He was placed in the cockpit of one of those early, single-seat aircraft you see in old pictures. His airfield was a pasture. After taxiing alone from one fence to another a few times, he was asked if he had the hang of it. When he agreed, the instructor said: “Take her off!”

I expect the loss ratio was high! Those of us who came later received the benefit of their trial and error. I’m sure many of us lived, because many of them didn’t. It brought an entirely new respect for those early men who had the courage to solo without any flight instruction, and to fly those flimsy, early planes.

We all live on the fruit of the sacrifices of those who came before us.

This is a thank you letter to all those who paved the way for us!

*From Grandpa With Love*

#### **A Note From the Writer**

Moving into my nineties caused me to reminisce. It was eye-opening to realize how much I had been changed by one-liners. I decided some of these might give others a new insight or a chuckle, so—enjoy! You can reproduce this material, provided the copies are complete, including this copyright note, and circulated free of charge. © 2016 Marvin J. Martin