

Wyborney combines farming, flying



Ask Bob Wyborney to tell you the Sunday school story about Red Ryder. It's a classic and explains how Bob got the Red Ryder CB handle.

Wyborney is a local product, born across the river in the Coulee Dam Hospital on Christmas Day in 1944. He attended the Wilbur schools and spent his spare time during his high school career working on the farm and carrying irrigation pipe in the canyon north of town.

He became seriously interested in flying while still in high school and completed many of his private pilot's requirements before he was old enough to receive his license. His first instruction was under Vern St. John at the Wilbur airport.

Bob started a college career in pre-law at Central Washington State College in Ellensburg. He spent most of his year at Ellensburg at the airport flying and upon the

advice of a college counselor he applied for and was accepted as a student at Clover Park Aviation Technical School in Tacoma. Two and a half years later, Bob had completed requirements for his A&P license (airframe and powerplant), and his shop management training. From Tacoma, Bob went on to the Northrup Institute of Technology in California where he studied aircraft maintenance engineering.

For entertainment while he was in California, Bob rode a "dirt bike" in desert racing competition and suffered an accident just before his wedding in 1968. He went "down the aisle" with various and assorted casts on his hand, wrist and leg.

While working with the Parker Aircraft Company, he took part in the Apollo space project until federal funds were withdrawn and the project ended. The Wyborneys moved back to the Wilbur area and he lived on the Harris farm northwest of town until he was able to find another aviation-oriented job, this time with the McCulloch company, headquartered at Lake Havasu City, Arizona. The family was there during the time of the construction of the London Bridge and the associated waterway.

While associated with McCulloch, Bob became the lead field engineer and was sent by the company to such

places as Mexico, Colorado, Brazil, Argentina, Australia and Canada. McCulloch Aircraft Corporation built sold helicopters and planes.

The opportunity came for Bob to move to the Aircraft Corporation. After six-month company training program, Bob moved his family from California to Moines, Iowa, from where Bob served as a regional engineer covering 10 midwestern states.

In 1975, the opportunity arose to return to Wilbur to take over the operation of family farm and in June of that year, the Wyborney family arrived in Wilbur driving school bus.

Bob, his wife and their four children now live in Wilbur where the entire family is active in a number of community activities. Bob maintains his interest in aviation giving flight instruction and offers ground school classes. With Cliff Henke, Bob is involved in erecting a building at the Wilbur airport to be a flying service tuned to needs of the area. Henke and Wyborney also plan to install specialized machine work using such items as stainless steel, etc.

Bob's hobbies include hunting and fishing and spending a considerable amount of time at his second job as Wilbur town court man.