Doctor Terry Passen 1943-2000

Terry Passen played football at Jasonville high school and was a co-captain of the 1960 team. He joined the United States Marine Corps after graduation.

Doc Passen was a chiropractor who lived in Jasonville, Indiana. He was also the town physician to the largely unemployed coal miners of the area. His acts of kindness were legendary. He was a prolific designer who built at least 2 test models of every design he kitted. They were test flown at the high school campus which was about 400 feet from his home.

His first home was a double wide mobile home. He then built a large two story house with a basement where all his modeling and kitting activity took place. At first, He built old time stunt and combat ships. He was even importing engines. He got Cipolla to make special models for combat; a .15 and a .36. The .36 was very light and built on a .25 case. The .15 was also very light and looked like cut down .19.

After the two story house burned down, he built a one story house, and the modeling activity moved into a barn. Besides control line models, he also made R/C unlimited fun fly airplanes.

Doc loved Control Line Combat. He kitted many combat and stunt airplanes and sold them cheaply. (1980's and 1990's) During the late 1980's control line items were getting rather hard to get. Doc helped supply kits and engines at that time. Doc supplied many foam wing airplanes, but he also supplied all balsa built up kits. His plans were sometimes not specific to the airplane kits they were in, but you could build the kit with them.

I telephoned Doc in the late 1980's. He mentioned that the best thing I could do to promote Control Line was to get a Contest Director's license and start having contests. I did, and the Gluedobbers have had contests in Tulsa annually ever since.

Doc advertised and held many Old Time Combat meets at Jasonville in the 1980's and 1990's. They were well attended. The get togethers held in his basement the night before the contests were legendary. The airplanes allowed were all balsa, and no schnuerle engines were allowed. They were very successful contests.

When he got started in the airplane business, He was living in the two story house with a lot of balsa dust around down in the basement. Unfortunately, it caught on fire and he lost a lot of his stuff in a fire; many of his plans and templates were destroyed. After that, he built a one story house and did the airplane work out in a shed.

Later on, Doc had some really bad undeserved things happen to him in his personal life. His health declined, and He ended up in the Indiana Veteran's Home. Bud Bodzioch was the CD for the last two of Doc Passen's combat meets in 1999 and 2000. They were held at the Veteran's Home. He died from complications of diabetes (kidney failure) at the Indiana Veteran's Home in May of 2000. He was 56 years old, and is buried in the Passen family plot in Jasonville, Indiana. He is survived by three daughters; Carrie, Jill, and Amy. He was preceded in death by his son Todd, who was involved in a single car wreck. It was thought that he had tried to miss hitting a deer and ran off the road. After his son's death, Doc's health went downhill.

Doc Passen was a good man and deserved much more out of life than he got.

Thanks to Paul Smith, Iskander Taib, Bud Bozioch, and ama21835 for information that they posted on the internet.

De Hill

Editors Note:

I never met õDocö in person, however, when I returned to control line combat in 1989, after a twenty plus year layoff, Doc was a source for kits, supplies, cores etc. The foam cores I still gravitate to today evolved from the cores Doc used on his õPair of Dox Slowsö. Doc loved control line combat and we exchanged many long hand written letters discussing combat design and theory.. He was a mentor and provided great help getting me up to speed after my long layoff from the combat circle. More importantly he was a wonderful friend. Thank you to De Hill for writing and allowing me to distribute Docøs story.

Neil Simpson

