

July 25, 1963

Dear Mr. DeLong:

Thank you for your letter of July 22 concerning the Elbridge engine which I presented to the Smithsonian Institution in 1956.

I knew Clyde Cessna quite well and his first monoplane was powered with a four cylinder Elbridge two cycle engine. About 20 or 25 years ago Clyde made the great mistake of breaking that airplane up and destroying it. It was stored in his barn and he needed the room. As to what happened to the engine I cannot tell you and Clyde has been dead some 15 years. His nephew, Dwane L. Wallace, is the president of the Cessna Aircraft Company in Wichita and it is possible that you might write to him and get some information on the engine.

The little three cycle Elbridge that I used to fly was acquired when I lived in California before World War I and it is the one that is in the Smithsonian.

You may or may not know that Art Smith learned to fly and did his early exhibition work with a four cycle Elbridge.

I never did know your father and am extremely sorry that I never did have the opportunity to meet him. I used to fly at Redwood City, California and am wondering if he was at San Jose at that time.

Sincerely,



WILL D. PARKER

WDP:gkh

Mr. Carl E. DeLong
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