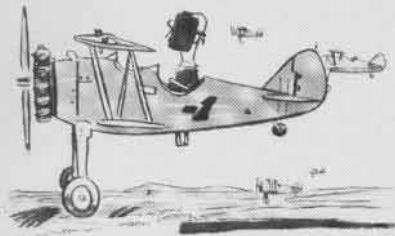
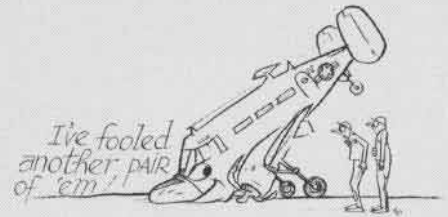


30 Years of Gramps



With this issue, the Sage of Safety begins his thirtieth year in the pages of *NA News*, remaining by far our most popular feature.

Gramps was not a young man when he took the job and each year has taken its toll. Who is to say whether his beard is a little thinner because of his age or because of his occupation. His caustic remarks can cut to the quick, but his praise of a job well done in moments of stress, while not lavish, always gets right to the point.

And the point is always well illustrated by the art of Robert Osborn.

In 1942, at the flight statistics desk of BuAer sat Captain "Seth" Warner who wondered, "Why are so many of the stupid accidents alike and why are so many of them so stupid, 100 percent pilot error?" Searching for a way to spread the word, he thought of "the oldest living Naval Aviator" as a means of getting that word to the fledgling aviators. With Robert Osborn, a Reserve lieutenant and an illustrator, the idea became a reality.

Gramps was introduced in the January 15, 1943, issue with these words: "Gentlemen, meet an old-timer, P. S. (Post Script) Pettibone, long since retired but now back in parachute harness. He started flying back in the days when airplanes were built out of cigar boxes and baling wire . . . and a successful landing was anything you could walk away from. . . ."

"Grampaw is still a rabid aviation enthusiast, particularly where Naval Aviation is concerned. He has had more close calls and experiences than Eddie Rickenbacker and Dick Tracy combined."

Little did the captain and the lieutenant realize they were creating a crusty character who would become a mentor for generations of Naval Aviators.

Gramps' survival is a tribute to the two men who created him. Nine Gramps have followed Capt. Warner to sit in the ol' man's seat, but there has been only one Osborn whose devotion to safety in Naval Aviation training remains undiminished.

