

## Bell Acres History...

# Dog Wrecks Plane

Twenty-four-year old Beaver Road resident Gus Hingst was a student pilot who once flew under the Sewickley Bridge, but his antics abruptly ended one Sunday morning in May 1931 after crashing a biplane next to the Sewickley YMCA.

With Hingst at the controls, he and a friend "borrowed" a plane from the Conway Airport and headed for Sewickley. Despite having earlier been denied permission by the Y to use its field, he went ahead and landed at the YMCA where an excited Boston Terrier jumped into the spinning propeller and was instantly killed.

Intending to make his escape from the dog's angry owner, Hingst tried to rev the engine, but the damaged propeller led to engine failure. The plane tipped and crashed into a clump of trees. The sound of the crash attracted not only doctors and nurses from the nearby Sewickley Hospital, but also the police and hundreds of onlookers.

Hingst and his passenger were treated for cuts and scrapes, but were otherwise unhurt. The plane's owner arrived to find it damaged beyond repair. Charges against Hingst were later dropped.



(Sewickley Herald Photo)