MITCHELL GALLERY OPENS

The long awaited day finally arrived when we were notified that the electrical work had been completed and we could occupy our museum space at last. So during the week of March 7-11 we moved in. The panels of historic photos were installed, the Lawson airliner model and the air terminal model were in place, and the first display case was delivered and assembled. On Friday, March 11 the crew from Astronautics Corp. assembled and installed their exhibit. The Gallery was unofficially open to the public and visitors came to view the exhibits.

The centerpiece of our Gallery is a large portrait of General Mitchell displayed and lighted on the back wall between the entrance doors to the conference rooms in back of the museum. The portrait had been

ANNUAL MEETING NOTICE

The annual membership meeting of the Friends of the Mitchell Gallery of Flight will be held at 7:00 PM, May 10, 1988 in the conference rooms in back of the museum. Election results will be announced at the meeting.

After the business meeting, James Kerr, Deputy Airport Director, will present an overview of the changes and improvements scheduled for General Mitchell International Airport during the next two years.

PLAN TO ATTEND!
commissioned by General Mitchell’s sister, Mrs. Harriet M. Fladows, in July, 1958. The artist was William Unger of Fort Atkinson. In a special ceremony the portrait was installed in the lobby of the air terminal on June 25, 1959. When the remodeling work on the terminal began, the portrait was placed in storage. The portrait is larger than life size and shows the General with his many medals and decorations from his distinguished military career.

Other exhibits are being planned and prepared. A cut-away pioneer jet engine is being refurbished and a suitable display around it is being designed. Early propellers will be featured in another exhibit. A four-cylinder aviation engine of Milwaukee manufacture will be the subject of another exhibit.

Financing for the preparation of these exhibits still must be obtained. There are many other possible exhibits that could be included if sponsors can be located. The success of our exhibit program will depend upon the support given by the membership.

Again, we need more participation by the membership in planning and promoting our Gallery. If you know of anyone interested in sponsoring an exhibit, or who may have material for a display, contact Ed Green, Exhibits Chairman. Or if you can help in setting up a fund raising program, contact Bill Pavesic, Fund Raising Chairman."

WE NEED YOUR HELP!

(All photos by Paul Stouffer)

Pat Rowe of the airport staff viewing the Astronautics exhibit.

PRESIDENT’S REPORT
January-March, 1988
By James E. Foley

Finally, the door was opened to the Mitchell Gallery of Flight in early March. After the contractors had completed their work in our leased area, the exhibits we had on hand were moved into the Gallery and, without ceremony or fanfare, it is open to the public.

The Friends of the Mitchell Gallery of Flight should be proud of this modest beginning, accomplished without taxpayer funds. All monies received through membership dues, the gravity well, donations, and events such as the General Mitchell Open golf outing have gone directly to complete and furnish the Gallery. The officers, board of directors, secretaries, and other volunteers are giving their time and effort without financial remuneration. We also haven’t had to pay any fees for fundraising or other help to date.

In order to increase our membership in the Friends, a major task was undertaken to contact, by direct mailing, approximately 600 persons who have or had an aviation interest. This effort is starting to bring results.

The future looks encouraging, with continued interest in the Gallery and the potential in the near future of obtaining more displays such as a jet engine, an Allis-Chalmers supercharger, and possibly a large-scale model of a historic airship.

We have been invited by S.C. Johnson and Son, Inc., to a joint gathering on June 7 with the Air Force Association in the Johnson Wax Golden Rondelle Theater in Racine to view films.

Tentative plans are to have the Third Annual General Mitchell Open golf outing on July 19 at Grant Park. This event, in the past, has been our greatest financial supporter.

This being my last report as President, I would like to again express my thanks to the working Board of Directors, Recording and Membership Secretaries, and the support of Airport Director C. Barry Bateman and his staff for a fun three years.