

## Pilot Profile: Casey Kieliszowski

by Russell Knetzger

“Casey” is short for Casimir, but it might as well be short for “Constancy,” as in faithful and dependable. Casey, 77 this August, still lives in the same apartment-over-store at S.12<sup>th</sup> & Lincoln where he was born. He still belongs to St. Cyril & Methodius parish a few blocks away, which was his grade school. His High School, Don Bosco on Wind Lake Av., was one block away. Casey also cares for ailing fellow bachelor brother Joe, just as when the family asked, he helped care for his late brother Frank.

Casey’s constancy comes from his mother Helen (nee Polski) who lived to age 94 cooking for the two brothers all their lives until her death just 8 years ago on Easter Sunday. She attended mass each morning. From his father, Casimer, an auto mechanic who died early at age 59, Casey was open to the engine mechanic’s work he was assigned in the US Air Force, 1952-1956 (Korean Conflict).

### US AIR FORCE

The Air Force trained Casey on the monster “R4360” 28 cylinder radial engines used in B50 and B36 bombers. Air Force service was his only time away from home, but it was notable.



*Above: Casey Kieliszowski (far left about 1982 in one of over 2000 candid photos by Art Schmidt at the County field), allowing Russell Knetzger, his original flight instructor at the Electrons field in the 1970s, to test fly a new model, probably the great flying VK Cherokee. Kneeling is Milan Zdrubeky near his twin tailed delta. Cropped out are Floyd Katz, and then active Scott Wilke who now owns the store in Cudahy where Greenfield News was located.*



*Above: Casey Kieliszowski photo during the July, 2009 RAMS Fun Fly-In, holding his .25 engine semi-Mustang ARF, recovered over the original aluminum for better visibility. Casey favors low wing aircraft.*

After basic training at Lackland AFB in Texas, and engine mechanics school at Chanute AFB (Champaign, Illinois), Casey flew as asst. B50 crew chief to US bases in England, Guam, and Japan.

Following military service, Casey went into gas pipe line work for private contractors as a laborer, doing that until retirement. By May, 1962 he earned his FAA pilot’s license, taking lessons at Rainbow Airport in Franklin. Until Nov., 1969 he kept current by flying rentals: (Cessna 170, Aeronca, and Piper PA-12) He even mastered flying with snow skis. His outdoor work, and avoiding smoking and drink, probably account for his always good health. Only his hearing has declined (noisy Air Force engines?), so he doesn’t attend club meetings.

Aeromodeling began with 25 cent stick & tissue kits from the two “dime stores” across from home. He started “escapement” radio in Cedarburg in the late ‘50s with guys who went on to form the Electrons club in 1960. They all patronized “Al’s Hobby shop” on 28<sup>th</sup> & North Ave. When asked, Casey has participated in all County Field work parties.

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