Synopsis: "The Double Life of the Piper *Cub*: Bazooka Charlie And A Stranger-Than-Fiction History," by Dr. Bruce Arlen Wasserman.

"The Double Life of the Piper *Cub*: Bazooka Charlie And A Stranger-Than-Fiction History" tells the story of the Piper *Cub* single-engine airplane, its evolution from Clarence Gilbert Taylor's E-2 Taylor *Cub,* and the influence exerted by William T. Piper, a Harvard-trained engineer and successful businessman who believed aviation would flourish only if airplanes were made accessible to people of ordinary financial means. The article tracks the early development of the airplane into its first-in-aviation assembly line production techniques mirroring those used by Henry Ford with his Model T, then follows the plane's acquisition by the U.S. Army Air Corps in World War II and its use—reimagined as an L-4 *Grasshopper*, a dressed-in-fatigues version of the *Cub*—as an artillery spotter. Among the most unbelievable stories of the war, the article tracks the underpowered, 65 horsepower, fabric covered, 800 pound wet weight plane as it was converted to a weapons-launching platform by Major Charles Carpenter shortly after D-Day, then follows the history of his unusual but successful air campaign in support of Allied offensives in France. After the war, much of the military inventory of the *Cub* was sold as surplus, going back to the type's prior use in civilian life. It filled the broad needs of General Aviation while teaching more than one generation of pilots to fly and functioning in more capacities—including the carrying of mail, passengers, and freight to remote locations—than any other single-engine plane of the day.

Through original letters, real photo postcards, first day covers, advertisements, ephemera, and firsthand testimonies in the National Archives, the article dives into every use of the plane, through a long and storied history to the present day "clones" of the original design that still are

flying and capture the imagination of the public today. Throughout the comprehensive article, philatelic material is used to tell the story of this remarkable plane which served as transportation, sprayed crops, treated infested forests, flew to more remote locations than any other single plane, carried mail and freight, operated as an air ambulance in the Korean conflict, and disabled tanks in World War II while on the record as the "Model T of the Air." The telling of the plane's story—especially its use in wartime—demanded substantial research and the hunt for unique, original material to fully explain the life of William T. Piper's remarkable impact with this plane.

Using 38 images, the article tells a complete story of the *Cub* beginning with its early design and development and continuing through current day examples. It presents much unusual philatelic material in support of the story, including original letters from Major Carpenter to his wife during his active duty with the plane, photos of the plane in various incarnations, and original artwork created for the story by the author. The story was the "cover story" of the May/June 2026 edition of *The Airpost Journal* and the author created that cover art, using Photoshop, from original reference images. *The Airpost Journal* has been in continuous publication since 1929. The author went to great lengths to provide visual material that supports the history of the incredible versatility of this airplane, as well as its larger-than-life associated stories.