

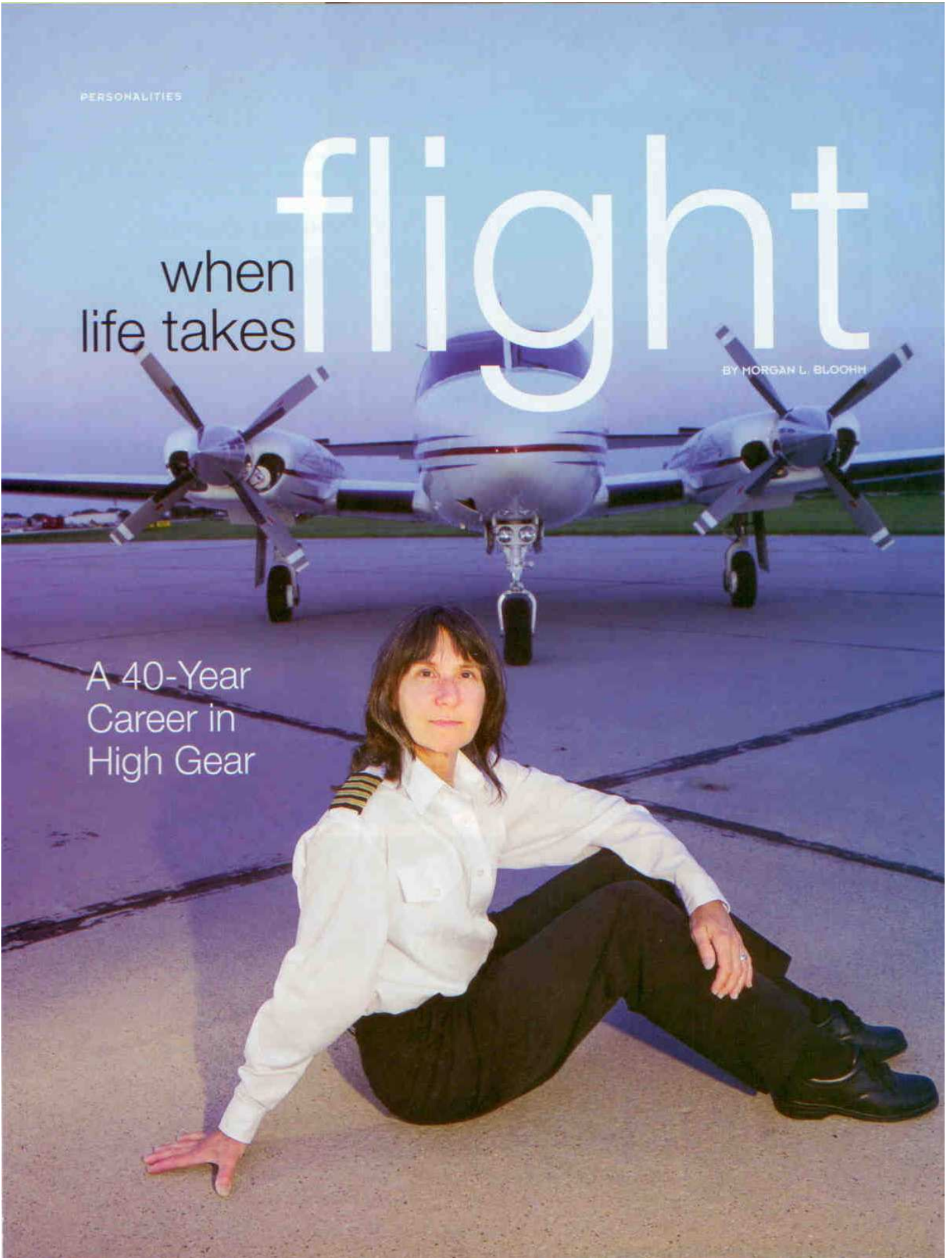
PERSONALITIES

when
life takes

flight

BY MORGAN L. BLOOM

A 40-Year
Career in
High Gear



When life takes flight

By Morgan L. Bloohm

Green Bay Luxury Living magazine

Jane Woosencraft's fascination with life in the big blue sky began early. As a young girl growing up in Clintonville, Wis., Woosencraft would cling to the top of her neighbor's old pine tree, gazing with wonder at the DC3s piercing the air, preparing for landing.

"I didn't even know that I was watching DC3s," said Woosencraft, 59. "But I know that airplanes were the coolest things I'd ever seen; they could FLY!"

Woosencraft's aerial passion was fixed from those moments in the treetop, and her stars began to align when Clintonville High School added a dynamic aerospace course led by an experienced pilot. Among a crowd of curious boys, there she sat with her friend Barb Hehn.

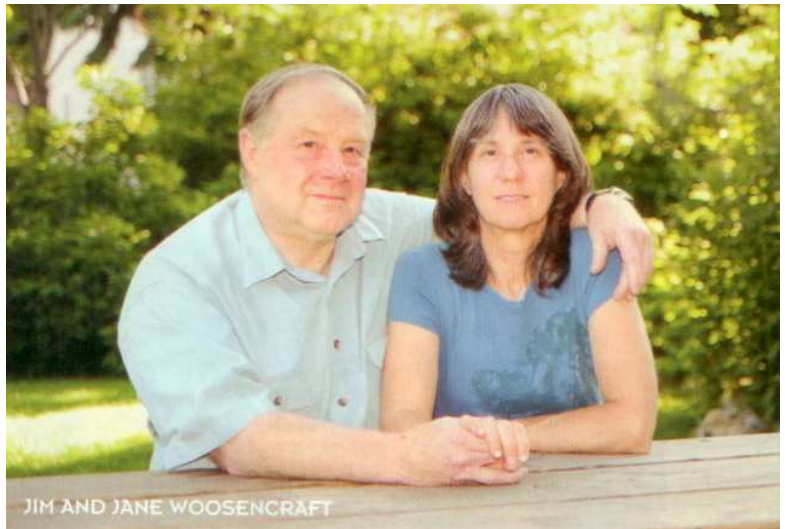
"Being a girl, and a small one at that, it never even occurred to me that I could ever fly one of those wonderful things," she said. "Our teacher was a very dedicated man ... and made it possible for us all to have a short airplane ride, and that was that."

Woosencraft's magical year was 1968, when she first sliced through the sky on her own accord, her cockpit chock-full of adrenaline and awe. She was flying.

This, in itself, was big. A fierce woman pilot didn't come along too often during our nation's more repressed years, but Woosencraft remained determined and gracious, following her interests realistically.

"We didn't have a lot of money, [so] the only way I could keep flying was if people paid me to fly," she recalled. Sure enough, she found a way, and began flight instructing from a simple grass strip in Green Bay. From there, she branched out to Pulaski Airport and Austin Straubel field in Green Bay, basking in her students' elation when performing take-offs and landings.

"It gave me the greatest feeling...[but] I did not often do any flying myself," she said. "I always felt that the more time the student had, moving the controls and pushing buttons and toggles, the faster they would learn."



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Though she loved teaching, it became an effort, refraining from fully flying the instruction planes out of sheer excitement. Soon enough, though, Woosencraft would stretch her wings once more. After her three children had grown, she began flying charter, dotting the air on a steady basis.

Today, Woosencraft mostly flies charter for Frontline Aviation at Austin Straubel International Airport, but she still finds time to don her super-hero cape, managing the fixed-wing flights for air ambulance rescues and volunteering on the Bay Area Pregnancy Counseling Center hotline.

"Flying is a great blessing and a privilege," she said, her voice with an excited bounce to it. "All pilots I fly with enjoy it as much as I do, and I just love it."

As a woman who spends her time scraping the clouds, she has remained incredibly grounded, humble and appreciative of life's happenstances.