Dr. Carol Voss, pilot, entomologist, and founder of AGROTORS, Inc., in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, is truly one of the great helicopter pioneers of our industry. His work in aerial applications and involvement in agricultural and forestry aviation have contributed greatly to that wing of the civil helicopter business, particularly in the area of insect control. Since founding AGROTORS in 1955, he has been actively involved in the Helicopter Association International (HAI), where he served on numerous committees, including chairman of the Agricultural Committee for over 10 years. Dr. Voss has just published a autobiography, Wing and Rotor, the Highs and Lows. The book offers great insight into the growing and challenging aerial application sector of the helicopter industry.

Over the years, Dr. Voss and AGROTORS have won numerous awards. In 1999, HAI presented AGROTORS, Inc., with the Igor I. Sikorsky Award for Humanitarian Service. This award is presented to the person or persons who best demonstrate the value of civil rotorcraft to society by saving lives, protecting property, and aiding those in distress. Given annually at the HAI “Salute to Excellence” banquet held at HELI-EXPO, the award is often in recognition for a particular mission. In this case it was for AGROTORS’s work in New York City’s Mosquito Control Program, following an emergency call from the Mayor’s office to combat the spread of West Nile Virus. In 2000 HAI presented Dr. Voss with the Lawrence D. Bell Memorial Award for management leadership. The award is granted to an individual who is recognized for long and significant service to the civil helicopter industry.

I have just reviewed Wing and Rotor, the Highs and Lows, and can attest that it is packed with history—the history of Dr. Voss, his work, and AGROTORS, and the history of the helicopter, from the early days to the present. The book covers a broad range of aerial application work including crop duster work out west and Gypsy Moth control programs in the northeast. This fascinating compilation details how Dr. Voss and the helicopter have literally covered the world, and left it a healthier and more abundant place. His involvement and travels have taken him to Ecuador to conduct banana spray research, World Bank work in India, and World Health Organization work in Africa to combat the Black Fly scourge, which causes River Blindness. Also included is locust control work in Gambia, Niger, and Morocco for USAID, along with work in Russia, Egypt, Argentina, and Japan, just to name a few locations.

I heartily recommend Wing and Rotor, the Highs and Lows, by one of the premier pilots and entomological experts to ever climb into a chopper, to anyone interested in helicopter aerial application history. If you are interested in obtaining a copy for your helicopter library, contact: 1st Books Library, 2595 Vernal Pike, Bloomington, Indiana 47404 Or call toll-free 1-888-280-7715, fax: 1-812-961-1023 or contact publish@1stbooks.com.

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