



Airport News

From DAA

Dyersville Area Aviation

Not to be confused with DIA – Denver International Airport

January 2008

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Airport under Ice and Snow



The airport had to be closed because of the ice layers and the coverage of snow. We are hoping to have a January thaw that will allow us to break through the ice. Airplanes can land on the grass covered with snow, but can be hazardous with the ice.

In the past ten years, the airport has been closed only a few weeks. We were able to blow the snow with borrowed equipment and clear the runway enough to land on it. But this year the ice has given us a whole new dimension.

Airport loses University of Dubuque traffic.

The flight instructors from the U of Dubuque told us they like to use this airport for training because it is a nice place to land and teach the students “soft field landings” When construction on the ethanol plant started, the City of Dyersville abandoned the “public use” status because it would expedite the construction. When we reverted back to “private use”, it set us back. The University of Dubuque’s insurance carrier notified the instructors they could no longer use Dyersville. We wonder how many other planes are kept away because of insurance companies not allowing their insured to land at private airports.

Plant Construction Continues



Airline Humor

"Thank you for flying Delta Business Express. We hope you enjoyed giving us the business as much as we enjoyed taking you for a ride."

As the plane landed and was coming to a stop at Ronald Reagan, a lone voice came over the loudspeaker: "Whoa, big fella. WHOA!"

When leaving Sydney airport in November we were lucky to have a stewardess with a sense of humor when she announced, "If this flight should become a cruise reach under the seat and slip on these water wings".

If you have e-mail, please send me your address. It will save the postage
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Clancy Hess – a visit to the past and future.



The winter weather has closed the airport so what to pilots do? They look for other pilots and swap stories.

Clancy Hess has given us information about the first airport in Dyersville. Flying before they had those places called “airports”, and landing in any field as long as you landed into the wind.

I wanted to meet Clancy so Fred Lansing and I (Dave Kramer) headed for Chicago and lunch with Clancy. Needless to say, it was an experience. He shared a wealth of

information with us.

Clancy’s family originated in the Luxemburg, Iowa area. His father moved to Chicago, married and lived there during Clancy’s younger years. There he was introduced to flying. As a boy, he took a job at the local airport and started flying. He would clean airplanes, sweep the hangar in exchange for flight time. He was probably the youngest person to solo. At the age of 10 the instructor turned him loose in an airplane.

He moved to Dyersville during his high school days and continued flying by hitch hiking to the Dubuque airport to clean airplanes and spent the night in the airport. The next morning he would hitch hike back to Dyersville for school. Rumor has it that during that time, someone flew between the Basilica steeples and Clancy know a little bit about it.

His senior year of high school, his family moved to Cedar Rapids and he continued flying out of the Cedar Rapids Airport. Clancy liked to draw cartoons and one day his neighbor made a deal with him - - if Clancy would take him up to see the country side, he would teach Clancy about drawing. So Clancy and Grant Wood took off into the wild blue yonder and flew together many times.

When the war started, Clancy joined the Marines as a pilot and flew torpedo planes off the carriers. Because he had over 1,000 hours, they assigned him to the heavy metal, flying generals and dignitaries .Among them were Bob Hope and his troupe. After the war, Clancy flew for TWA internationally and helped Lewis University establish their airport and flight program.



Now retired, he is still very active He has many ideas and is working (or playing) to fulfill more dreams.

Fred and I appreciated the time he gave us and hope to get together again.

There is a chance he could come to Dyersville and visit.



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