



Airport News

From DAA

Dyersville Area Aviation

Not to be confused with DIA – Denver International Airport

December 2013

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A little of history

Looking through the American Trust Farley History Calendar, I noticed the following on the May 17 date.



“1934 – B.N. Arquitt accompanied by George Freeze, Ralph Ball and Louis Winkler left Sunday night for Syracuse, N.Y. to purchase a Great Lakes biplane to be used in instructing students in flying.”

Photo of a Great Lakes biplane

I thought there has to be a story there. Then that day my good friend, Clancy Hess, pilot and local historian called and we had our regular chat. When I mentioned the calendar, Clancy said, “I knew old Benny”. From there the story begins.

Benny Arquitt at lived at Farley, North of Highway 20 and flew off his farm. Shortly before WWII Benny flew out of the Dubuque Airport when it was still on an island in the Mississippi and had wood ash runways. (Clancy also flew out of there.) Shortly before the war, Benny moved to Lima, Ohio and became the Airport Manager. After the war, the City of Dubuque moved the airport “up on the hill and put in concrete runways”. At this time, Benny moved back to Dubuque and became the first Dubuque Airport Manager.

A side note – Clancy Hess’s father was born in Luxemburg, Iowa. He moved to the Chicago area where Clancy was born and started flying. Clancy soloed at the age of 10. In the ‘30s they moved to Dyersville and Clancy attended Xavier High School and hitchhiked to Dubuque Airport to continue his flying. In his senior year of high school, his family moved to Cedar Rapids. When WWII broke out, Clancy enlisted and flew in the Pacific Theatre. Because of his experience, he was put on special assignment with Marine Corp generals. He met celebrities like Bob Hope and Jack Benny. Another name you might recognize he met early in his career. While in Cedar Rapids, his neighbor was an artist and wanted to see Iowa from the air. Clancy

made a deal with him. He would give him rides and the artist would give Clancy lessons on drawings. That's how Clancy met and became friends with Grant Wood.

Runway Still Open



Although the runway is covered with snow, the airport is still being used.

Notice the wheel tracks in the snow and the bare spot from the prop wash of a plane taking off.

We are able to fly off 1-3 inches of snow (no drifts) without plowing first. A good rule of thumb is – if you can see grass sticking up through the snow, it's good to land.

Aviation 101

A thunderstorm is never as bad on the inside as it appears on the outside. It's worse.

Things which do you no good in aviation: Altitude above you. Runway behind you. Fuel in the truck. Half a second ago. Approach plates in the car. The airspeed you don't have.

**Speed is life, altitude is life insurance. No one has ever collided with the sky.
The only time you have too much fuel is when you're on fire.**

Activity throughout the year



Whether it was visitors flying to the area, activities for the enjoyment of the local residents, services for the agriculture community or education for the youth of the area, Dyersville Airport was and is a valuable part of the community.



There were crop dusting firms that came in and stayed for weeks while doing their spraying and seeding. The model airshow put on by the radio control model flyers drew hundreds again this year. Hosting EAA meetings for the pilots in the area.



This summer we again hosted the National Cessna 150 Club. We had 33 airplanes at one time. We furnished rides to all the attractions in Dyersville and fed them a good lunch.



After what seemed to be a short afternoon, they flew back to Clinton, IA for their meetings.



People of all ages used and enjoyed the airport.



Happy New Year



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