



THE WRIGHT FLYER



Aviation Trail, Inc.

Summer 2010

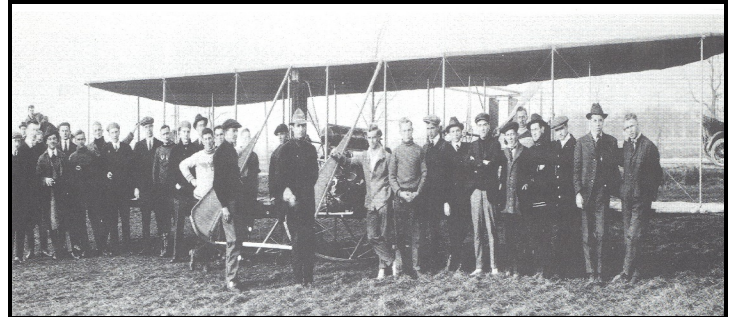
ATI TO PICNIC ON THE HILL AT WRIGHT FIELD AUG. 22

Come picnic on the hill for National Aviation Day! And celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Wrights' Aviation Flying School which was on nearby Huffman Prairie.

Again this year we'll hike Wright Brothers Hill for the mutual birthdays of Orville and his sister Katharine Wright and National Aviation Day. And once more we'll slide the event into Sunday, Aug. 22, for the convenience of all.

Our speaker in the East Interpretive Center, following lunch, will be Dawne Dewey, head of Wright State University Archives & Special Collections in the Paul Laurence Dunbar Library. Her presentation will focus on the Wright Flying School and its graduates who are commemorated at the Wright Memorial. Lunch baskets of sandwiches, chips, dessert and a drink will be ready at 12 noon on the plaza in front of the Wright Memorial. If it rains, we'll go inside the nearby Interpretive Center.

Prices for adults and children will remain the same as in 2009: \$15 for an adult and \$40 for a family of up to five persons. Reservations should be made no later than Wed., Aug. 18, to ATI, P.O. Box 633, Wright Brothers Branch, Dayton, OH 45409. Park in the lot on the far side of the Interpretive Center, or on the road leading up the hill. ATI will bring along a colorful parachute just for fun for the kids and the WACO Learning Center will have "bottle rockets" for the young and young at heart.



Canadian students training at Wright School of Aviation in 1915 at Huffman Prairie

The Wrights' "flying school" on Huffman Prairie began in 1910 as a training area for members of the Wright exhibition team with A. Roy Knabenshue as its organizer and manager. Fliers who trained there for exhibition included Walter Brookins, Arch Hoxsey, A.L. Welsh, Spencer Crane, J.W. Davis and Frank Coffyn. Flying began May 10 with Orville as instructor and the team flew its first exhibition at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway on June 13-18.

The field was a busy place. According to Tom Crouch in *The Bishop's Boys*, "Orville made hundreds of flights from the old field between 1911 and 1915, testing nine of the thirteen distinct aircraft types developed by the Wright Company. Huffman remained a world center of aeronautical achievement..." "It was also a teaching center. Late in his life Orville compiled a list of 115 individuals who had learned to fly there. It included the pioneers of military aviation."

Those pioneers included U.S. Lieutenants Frank Lahm, Charles DeForest Chandler, Kenneth Whiting, John Rodgers, and Henry H. "Hap" Arnold and Canadian Roy Brown, a World War I fighter pilot who is credited with the aerial fatality of Germany's Captain Manfred von Richthofen. Ms. Dewey is expected to bring to life those exciting days of flying on the prairie. She is a certified archivist with the Academy of Certified Archivists since 1994, and received two degrees from Wright State University: her bachelor's degree in history and anthropology (a dual major With Honors) in 1980 and her master's degree in public history in June 1984.

Her many management responsibilities and records management programs include care of the Wright brothers archives, the largest in the world.



Adults and kids play with a colorful parachute at the 2009 ATI picnic.

BOMBING WITH CANDY-FILLED PARACHUTES: THE STORY

When the new, main exhibit in the ATI Parachute Museum is completed, it will tell some fascinating stories. One of them was spun during the Berlin Airlift after World War II. Its cast of characters includes hungry Berlin children, a humanitarian-minded U.S. cargo pilot and his fellow fliers, and candy—lots of candy. You may already know about the “candy bomber.” If not, here’s his story. Check it out later this year when it’s a part of the historical narrative in the museum.

The “candy bomber” was Lt. Gail Seymour Halvorsen, a U.S. Air Force pilot who dropped candy—tied to small, home-made parachutes—to the children of West Berlin on his missions for the Berlin airlift begun in 1948.

Halvorsen, who flew C-47 and C-54 cargo aircraft, began the “bombings” out of compassion for the German children whose divided city of West Berlin was blocked by the Soviets from normal delivery of food, fuel and other necessities of daily living.

To save the West Berliners from starvation, the United States and the Royal Air Force airlifted in supplies: 2,325,000 tons over the duration of the airlift. Halvorsen flew some of those delivery missions--many of them carrying candy drops.

The parachutes used early-on in the candy bombing were handkerchiefs, shirt sleeves, rags or discarded fabric and were made on the pilots’ own free time. They attached a variety of candy and chewing gum to the mini parachutes and released them in flight from the escape windows or side doors of the cargo planes.

The children soon learned to recognize which aircraft carried candy. Halvorsen, in particular, would tilt or wiggle his aircraft’s wings, indicting a sweet cargo. Thus, he became known as Uncle Wiggly Wings or *Onkel Wackelflugel*. When other pilots learned of Halvorsen’s morale-boosting airdrops, they joined in. Soon the venture was officially named Operation Little Vittles and publicity about it brought donations of huge quantities of sweets and more pilots cooperating in the venture.



Halvorsen shows one of his parachutes to his future wife Alta.

In addition to the personal candy purchases made by Halvorsen and the cargo pilots, American schoolchildren and American-based organizations—large and small--made generous donations to the project. For example, the Confectioners Association of America gave 100,700 packages of candy; the Life Saver Co. sent 4,000 roll of the ring-shaped sweets; and the Huyler Candy Co. donated 10 tons of candy, with parachutes.

It is estimated that while Halvorsen was flying the airlift, he and the other pilots dropped as many as 90,000 candy parachutes over Berlin. Over the duration of the airlift, some 23 tons of parachuted goodies drifted to the Berlin children.

Halvorsen, who retired from the Air Force as a colonel, was born Oct. 10, 1920, in Salt Lake City, Utah. In the 1970s he returned to Tempelhof Air Base in western Berlin—where his airlift missions had originated—as base commander.

In 1974 he was decorated with the Cross of the Order of Merit of the Federal Republic of Germany (*Großes Bundesverdienstkreuz*) and participated in the closing ceremonies for Tempelhof Air Base in 1993. He was, for many years, treated as a celebrity, made personal appearances and gave speeches about the Candy Bombers of the Berlin Airlift.

ATI FUNDS TWO EDUCATIONAL EVENTS THIS SUMMER

At the ATI Board Meeting in June, members voted to fund two educational undertakings this summer. The first unanimous “yea” vote was to sponsor one scholarship for \$230 for WACO Summer Camp held the week of June 28 at the WACO Educational Center at Historic WACO Field in Troy, Ohio.

The camp traditionally services about 15 students, 4th to 6th grade, who learn some of the principles of flight and the Wright brothers’ story, emphasizing their studies of aeronautical lift and drag.

The second funding action by the board was to approve \$50 for expenses for the SOAR program at the Vectren Dayton Air Show, Dayton, Ohio. SOAR services students—3rd grade through high school--with educational materials and activities related to aeronautics.

ATI Board Member Jim Beisner, former ATI Board president who has been involved with both activities for several years, recommended sponsorship of both activities. The National Aviation Heritage Alliance manages the SOAR program at the Air Show.

ATI REPRESENTED AT DAYTON AIR SHOW

Again this year at the Vectren Dayton Air Show (July 17-18) Aviation Trail, Inc. was part of the exhibit tent of the National Aviation Heritage Alliance. Representatives from the trail were on-site to hand trail brochures to everyone who stopped by. The exhibit--used previously at various air shows--displays thumb-nail sketches of some of the trail sites. The two-day Dayton Air Show featured the U.S. Navy's Blue Angels and a new attraction that was a custom fit with ATI's plans for the final phase of its Parachute Museum. Team Fastrax Parachute Team from Middletown, Ohio, displayed precision and skill in their target landings under colorful parachutes; the ATI museum will include skydiving in its "parachutes in sports" exhibit.



This U.S. Air Force C-17 dwarfs ATI President Marvin Christian's tiny, red 1955 English Morris Garage (MG), right of fuselage, at the Vectren Dayton Air Show Friday, July 16. The little car was on an important mission: delivering Aviation Trail brochures to the National Aviation Heritage Alliance's tent for distribution. Air Show officials tallied about 80,000 visitors to the two-day show. (Photo courtesy of Marvin Christian)

Other airborne attractions were the wing-walking team of Kyle Franklin and Amanda Younkin-Franklin, stunt pilot Sean Tucker, an American Airlines DC-3, Greg Poe doing aerobatics in an MX-2, the B-17 Hollywood Memphis Belle and Sentimental Journey and the AeroShell aerobatic team flying AT-6Gs. Military planes that flew included the U.S. Air Force F-16 and C-17; U. S. Navy F-18 and U.S. Marine Corps C-130. Topping off Saturday's show was the "Oscar Night of Aviation" at the Dayton Convention Center hosted by the National Aviation Hall of Fame. This year's honorees were Clay Lacy, aviation businessman and videographer; Warren G. Grimes (posthumously), inventor of aircraft lighting; astronaut Alan Bean; and Noel Wien (posthumously), arctic flight expert. The previous evening the NAHF had hosted the President's Reception and Dinner with its President's Award going to the National Business Aviation Association.

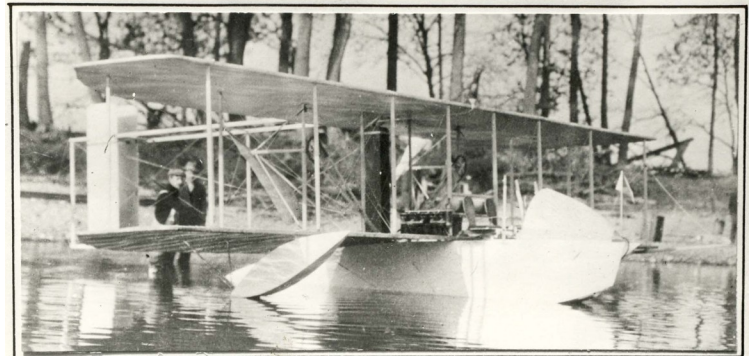
WRIGHTS' SEAPLANE BASE PLAQUE DEDICATION SET FOR AUG. 20



Dedication of an Ohio historical marker to commemorate the Wright Company's location on the Great Miami River for flight testing seaplanes will be Aug. 20 at 6 p.m. on the West Carrollton side of the river, one of the first seaplane bases in the United States. The marker is located in the Miami and Erie Canal Park at 5457 Marina Dr. in West Carrollton. The public is welcome. The rain date is Aug. 21 at 2 p.m. The event is being hosted by the Wright Seaplane Base Inc. and the mayors of the City of Moraine and the City of West Carrollton are scheduled to participate in the ceremony. Aviation Trail, Inc. is one of several organizations which donated funds for the seaplane base project.

Also expected to attend are representatives of Aviation Trail, Inc.--the seaplane base is on the Aviation Trail--West Carrollton Historical Society, the Ohio Historical Society, VFW Post 3438, Boy Scouts of America, and citizens and politicians from the state of Ohio.

A flyover of the Wright Model "B" is scheduled. The location of the marker is at the bend in the Miami River where the Wright Company tested several models of the Wright seaplane and perfected the Model "G" Aeroboat which is featured on the marker. Future plans of the Wright Seaplane Base organization call for a full-scale, look-alike Model "G" Aeroboat on the bend of the river along with a descriptive history of the Wright seaplanes.



Wright Model "G" Aeroboat on the Great Miami River, 1913

2010 WOW CONFERENCE WOWS GIRLS



On July 16, the National Aviation Hall of Fame hosted young women with an interest in aviation-related careers as it presented the fourth annual Wings of Women (WOW) Conference. The day-long event – held at the National Aviation Hall of Fame inside the National Museum of the United States Air Force — was designed to introduce high school girls to successful women in a wide range of aviation-related careers.

For a \$15 registration fee, the attendees heard keynote speaker Christy Garvin, winner of the 2010 A. Scott Crossfield Aerospace Education Teacher of the Year Award. Garvin, of Powder Springs, Ga., holds a degree in elementary education and psychology and a Master's of Science in Education. She is an emergency medical technician; holds a private pilot license and instrument rating; and is currently working on her commercial license. Garvin has written an aerospace curriculum that is used across her county school system and designed and taught aviation and space camps for Georgia Tech. Her elementary students build kites, hot air balloons, model airplanes, rockets, and working hovercraft. They design and construct a 35-foot-long inflatable Space Shuttle, create lunar plant-growth chambers, and design and build a model of a future Mars base.

Other speakers included women veterans of the Women Airforce Service Pilots, members of the U.S. Air Force 445th Airlift Wing — who told first-hand stories about their roles in humanitarian rescue work in Haiti — and other female military and civilian pilots and aviation professionals.

Girls who participated in the program could also take an actual flight on July 24. Flights were offered in association with the Young Eagles Program from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Moraine Air Park.



Junior mentor Katelyn Wilson, part of the 2009 WOW Conference, shows off her Young Eagles certificate and log book from Sporty's.

WACO LEARNING CENTER RECEIVES GRANT FROM THE DUKE FOUNDATION

The folks at the WACO Learning Center in Troy, Ohio, recently celebrated Christmas in July. They received notice of a \$126,000 grant from the Paul G. Duke Foundation to establish an Aviation Career Learning Program for high school students and adults. "It's a dream come true," said ATI board member Jim Beisner who has been involved with aviation education for about 15 years "We are delighted with the grant and already have received a check for \$42,000, the first of three installments."

The local program will be situated at the Learning Center at Historic WACO Field in Troy, Miami County. The Paul G. Duke Foundation focuses on programs benefiting children, young adults and the family in the Miami County area.

Grants by the foundation are made in the area of arts, education, health, and social services and are made for both general and specific project support.



PARACHUTE MUSEUM PROGRESS



This is a computer-generated rendering for the proposed, main exhibit in the Aviation Trail Parachute Museum featuring a colorful parachute back-drop. The museum is on the second floor of ATI's building on South Williams Street in Dayton. Explanatory panels on both sides of the hung parachute discuss Dave Gold, primary contributor of artifacts to the museum; Harold Harris, first person to save his life with a parachute; the Caterpillar Club for parachutists who saved their lives with parachutes; Wright Field; how to pack a parachute; an interactive, stand-alone exhibit on feeling the wind force in a parachute; and contemporary uses of parachutes, such as skydivers and drag racers. Construction of the exhibit is under way at Exhibit Concepts Inc. in Vandalia, Ohio. Look for a museum Open House this fall. (Rendering courtesy of Exhibit Concepts)

Summer Flowers of Wright-Dunbar Village



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OX5 ENGINE ENTHUSIASTS TO GATHER IN FAIRBORN SEPT. 23-25

The Ohio Wing of the OX5 Aviation Pioneers will host the 55th annual reunion of the organization Sept. 23-25 at the Holiday Inn in Fairborn, Ohio, near Dayton.

The organization includes pilots who flew, or people who worked on, the OX5 engine which powered aircraft manufactured by Glenn Curtis, an arch rival of Wilbur and Orville Wright.

Curtiss made overtures to the Wrights for his engine, but was turned down.

The group will tour the National Museum of the United States Air Force on Sept. 24 and on Sept. 25 ATI member Jim Beisner will give a demo of his OX5 engine at the hotel.

STATUE FOR U.S. CAPITOL AWAITS FINAL SELECTION

It's now up to the National Statuary Collection Study Committee to recommend a notable Ohioan to be honored with a statue in the U.S. Capitol.

The votes of the people have been counted, with the top three personages being Thomas Edison, Wilbur and Orville Wright (treated as one entity) and track star Jesse Owens. The tallies—from a total of 46,723 votes cast—were Edison 14,261, the Wrights 13,363 and Owens 4,921.

The Committee—giving due consideration to the voting—now must make its recommendation to the full Ohio legislature. Aviation and Wright enthusiasts hope the committee and legislature will consider heavily the Wrights' lifetime achievements as citizens of Ohio versus Edison's seven short, early years in the state.

Public voting, which began March 20, and concluded June 12 was conducted by the Ohio Historical Society. The statue will replace one of former Governor William Allen who was pro-slavery, will be paid for with private donations and join the statue of President James Garfield already in the Capitol.

Since the original vote count made public by the OHS was in error, the society has said it will ask a third party to verify its second, and final, vote count.

WATCH THIS SPOT!

Next year, 2011, is Aviation Trail's thirtieth year!
 For an all-volunteer, non-profit that is exceptional!

So, we'll throw a party.

This newsletter will bring you details—in advance.
 Watch this spot!



Summer 2010

www.aviationtrailinc.org

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MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Aug. 21—Family Day at Huffman Prairie Flying Field, 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. with activities for children and adults. Free.

Aug. 22--ATI's Summer Picnic marking National Aviation Day and the mutual birthdays of Orville and Katharine Wright. Wright Brothers Hill on Wright-Patterson Air Force Base. Picnic baskets will be ready at 12 noon. Kid's activities with a parachute and WACO bottle rockets and, for the adults, a talk on the Wrights' Aviation School.

Sept. 18-19--WACO Fly-in and grand opening of the new Museum/Learning Center at Historic WACO Field in Troy, Ohio.

Oct. 4—Dr. Henry Narducci will present a program entitled, *The Origin and Evolution of Wright Patterson Air Force Base* at the Huber Heights Branch Library at 7:00 p.m. The program highlights the history of the base from 1904 to the present.

Oct. 5--Celebration of the Wrights' first practical flights 105 years ago, on Huffman Prairie. The event—9 a.m. until early afternoon—will be at Historic WACO Field, Troy, Ohio, for school children in Miami County with WACO and the National Aviation Heritage Alliance as managers. The Wright "B" look-alike is scheduled to fly.

Dec. 17--Anniversary of Wrights' first flight in 1903 to be celebrated with dinner and entertainment. Invitation with details to follow.

AVIATION TRAIL MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

I would like to become a member of Aviation Trail, Inc., at the following level:

____ Senior Citizen 60 and over \$15	____ Contributing \$50	____ Individual Life \$500
____ Individual \$20	____ Supporting \$100	(May be paid in five annual
____ Family \$30	____ Patron \$1,000/year	installments of \$100 each)

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Please make check payable to: **AVIATION TRAIL, INC.** and mail it together with this form to:

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