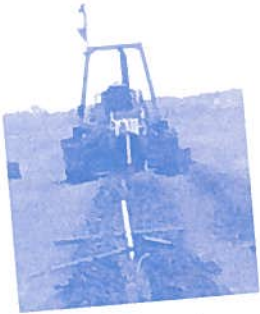




# WINGTIPS

Aviation Division Quarterly Newsletter

Apr-May 2002



Bay City Municipal Airport - underground conduit was installed in February at the north end of the runway as part of a runway lighting system renovation.



Wings Over Houston Airshow - the fabulous Thunderbirds are scheduled for the 18th Annual Airshow on October 26.



Denton Municipal Airport - some of the taxiways from the airport hangar area are closed as a new taxiway is currently under construction. City officials recently approved a bid for the design and construction of the airport's first control tower.

## AVIATION IS BACK!



Continental Express will begin jet service in April from Laredo International Airport using 50-seat Embraer145 and 37-seat Embraer135 Express Jets.



Brenham Municipal Airport - on a bright sunny day in February, work continues on the terminal building.



Sulphur Springs Municipal Airport - accommodated more than 85 pilots to a recent Fly-In and Pancake breakfast hosted by the Sulphur Springs Sport Aviation Association.



"WE TOLD YOU SO..."

Giddings-Lee County Airport - celebrated a pancake breakfast with a record turn out-105 airplanes and over 300 people.



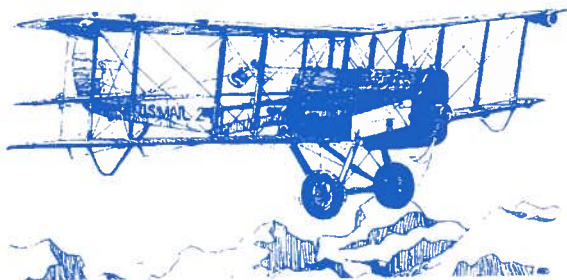
**Help may be on the way for general aviation**

Following September 11, 2001, Congress acted quickly to provide financial assistance to ensure the continued viability of our nation's commercial airline industry. The general aviation industry, which was also affected by this disaster, has thus far been left to fend for itself. Many aviation businesses, particularly those in urban areas, suffered significant financial losses with many small companies on the verge of bankruptcy or having to cease business entirely. However, help may now be on the way. On February 27th, the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee approved a bill to provide aviation businesses up to \$5.5 billion in direct compensation and loans to cover losses resulting from the terrorist attacks. To become law, the bill must now pass the floor of the House and also win Senate approval. Subsequently, money to fund the bill will have to be "appropriated" by Congress. There is still a long way to go on this, but, at least, a step has been taken to try and assist those affected most by measures taken following the terrorist attack on our country.

**A "thank you" to our air traffic controllers**

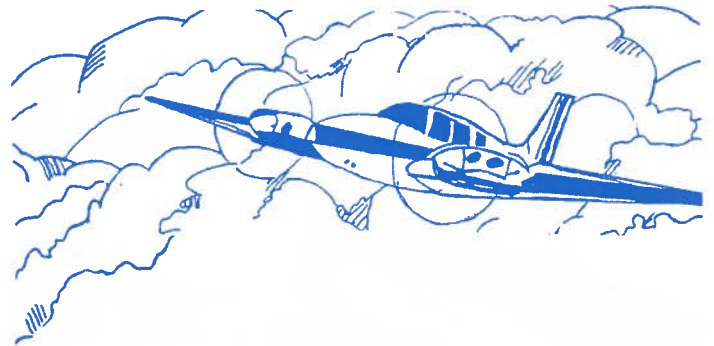
Recently purchasing a personal aircraft, after a sabbatical from flying for several years, I soon came to again realize how indeed fortunate we are in this country to have an outstanding air traffic control system staffed by highly professional men and women. Having started my flying career in the Navy in 1967, I quickly came to appreciate controllers and the help they provide in air traffic separation and in many other ways, helping pilots navigate around thunderstorms, assisting during emergencies and all the other things they do. As a recent example, returning home after a short trip, due to bad weather, I would have had to land at an alternate airport had it not been for the controller volunteering to try and vector me off the instrument approach, around thunderstorm activity, and back onto the final approach course at my home airport. He really didn't have to do that. He went above and beyond his job duties to help me out. This is typical of the type of job these folks do every day.

Thanks.



**TEXAS SLIPSTREAMS . . .**

- **Abilene Regional Airport** - Interim Airport Director: Keith Kaspari, P.O. Box 60, Abilene, TX 79604, 915/676-6368.
- **Austin Bergstrom International Airport, Austin** - Update: Jim Smith, Executive Director of Aviation, 3600 Presidential Blvd., City of Austin, Box 411, Austin, Texas 78719, 512/530-2242.
- **Brenham Municipal Airport** - Correction: Jack Hess, FBO & Airport Manager, 2455 Airport Road, Brenham, TX 77834, 979/836-5462 or 979/277-9755.
- **Brooks County Airport** - Update: Bond Cosby, Airport Manager, P.O. Box 556, Falfurrias, TX 78355, 361/325-3434.
- **McKinney Municipal Airport** - Interim Airport Manager, Debbie Bergenthal, P.O. Box 517, McKinney, Texas 75070, 972/562-4096.
- **Montgomery County Airport, Conroe** - New Airport Manager: Jeff Bilyeu.
- **Redbird Airport, Dallas** - New Name: Dallas Executive Airport, Dallas, Texas.
- **Wilbarger County Airport** - New Airport Manager: Grady Kays, 12557 Airport Drive, Vernon, Texas 76384, 940/552-2182.



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Comments and suggestions are welcome. Submission of articles is subject to space and editorial review; and should be directed to the editor at:

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Copies of this publication have been deposited with the Texas State Library in compliance with the state Depository Law.

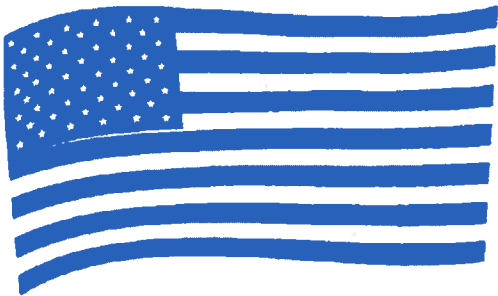
## **TEXAS HOUSE SPEAKER NAMED AIRCRAFT OWNERS & PILOTS ASSOCIATION'S HARTRANFT AWARD WINNER**

Speaker of the Texas House of Representatives James E. "Pete" Laney received the 2001 AOPA Hartranft Award for his efforts to preserve general aviation in Central Texas.

This prestigious award, named for the association's first president, is given annually to the political leader who makes the year's greatest contribution to the advancement of general aviation. Laney is the twenty-fourth recipient.

A longtime AOPA member, Laney helped engineer legislation requiring establishment of "a state airport in Central Texas that is open to the general public." He took the action after the 1989 closure of both Robert Mueller Airport and Austin Executive Airport stranded more than 600 general aviation aircraft and left the Austin area without a GA airport.

The bill passed in May 2001 and was signed into law by Governor Rick Perry the following month.



## **NEIL ARMSTRONG WINS WRIGHT AWARD**

The National Aeronautic Association honored Neil Armstrong with its Wright Brothers Memorial Trophy last December. The award, established in 1948, is given every year to a living person for "significant public service of enduring value, as a civilian, to aviation in the United States." Previous winners include Charles Lindbergh and Donald W. Douglas.

Armstrong, 71, is best known for his historic walk on the moon as part of the Apollo 11 mission in 1969, a mission on which he served as spacecraft commander. Before that, he was a naval aviator and flew 78 combat missions in Korea, earning an Air Medal and two Gold Stars. He went on to work as a test pilot for NACA (now National Aeronautics and Space Administration) and tested, among other high-speed aircraft, the 4,000-mph X-15.

After his "small step for man," Armstrong worked for NASA until 1971, after which he retired to become an engineering professor and a businessman.



**Fort Worth Meacham International Airport - a plane inches forward in February on the newly upgraded Taxiway Alpha--improvements included a wider paved surface which will allow the taxiway to serve as a backup runway.**

## **A WINDFALL FOR THE 1940 AIR TERMINAL MUSEUM**

By Elizabeth J. Murray

Last October the Houston Endowment and Southwest Airlines both approved major grants for the 1940 Air Terminal Museum located on Houston's William P. Hobby Airport (HOU). The grants gave the Houston Aeronautical Heritage Society the green light to begin restoration on the city's original art-deco air terminal, transform it into a civil aviation museum and illuminate its pioneering role in Houston's civil aviation history.

The terminal has served as the cornerstone of civil aviation in Houston. Both Howard Hughes and Eddie Rickenbacker were fixtures there, and a hangar just south of the terminal became the flight school and original home to the first three classes of Women's Air Service Pilots (WASPs). Earl McCaughn, owner of Aviation Enterprises, leased the aforementioned hangar, and there founded TransTexas Airways, which eventually became Continental Airlines.

Plans for the initial phase of restoration are to restore the north wing of the terminal itself and build an adjacent museum-grade hangar. Groundbreaking on the new wing is slated for this spring.

# LEST WE FORGET . . .

## MOYA LEAR

Moya Lear, wife of Learjet designer William P. Lear, died last December in Reno, Nevada; she was 86.

Faithful to the last request of her husband, she completed his Lear Fan project as chairman of Lear Aviation and saw the aircraft fly in December 1980. She was the daughter of vaudeville entertainers, who met Lear after a Broadway performance in 1938. After Lear's death in 1978, she graciously accepted her role as a leading lady in aviation.

She was inducted into the Hall of Fame of the Women Aviation Pioneers, and sat on the Board of Trustees of the Museum of Flight in Seattle.

## ART LOMBAS

Art Lombas loved flying to the very end. A basic flight instructor and private pilot, Art was test-flying a Cosmos trike when according to witnesses he took off, made a left turn, straightened out, and began another left turn that continued into the ground. CPR was unsuccessful and he was pronounced dead shortly afterward at a hospital in Fort Worth, Texas. The cause of the crash is still undetermined.

Lombas discovered the joy of ultralight contests in 1966 and became an enthusiastic member of DFW Lite Flyers (United States Ultralight Association Club 393). Many aviation enthusiasts in north Texas had their first flight in an ultralight with Lombas.

According to friends, Lombas enjoyed sharing his love of flying and had thousands of hours of ultralight flight time; he was affectionate, happy, and never missed an opportunity to fly or to help a friend.



"LET'S ROLL . . ."



## GPS BACK-UP PLAN

Transportation Secretary Norman Mineta announced recently that the U.S. Department of Transportation will implement a plan to maintain the adequacy of backup systems for each area of operation where Global Positioning System (GPS) is "critical to transportation issues." An earlier study prepared by the DOT's Volpe National Transportation Systems Center found that the system was vulnerable to disruption from atmospheric effects, signal blockage from buildings, interference from communications equipment, as well as intentional disruption. Mineta announced a number of initiatives to address the vulnerabilities found by the report. The DOT will develop a more complete partnership with the Department of Defense that will work to modernize GPS and implement new civil signals, consequently, both departments will work to establish anti-jamming for civil use. Performance standards will be developed for receiver units, and user education will warn of the technology's specific vulnerabilities. Finally, an assessment will be performed to determine a cost-effective mix of radio navigation systems for the next 10 years and beyond including evaluation of the long-term need for the continuation of Loran-C.

*Source: AVweb NewsWire*

# GRANTS RECEIVED

AIRPORT NAME	GRANT AWARDED	GRANT AMOUNT	PROJECT DESCRIPTION
Bruce Field Airport	12-12-01	\$668,362.66	In general, the work at Bruce Field consists of: reconstructing, overlaying RW 17-35 and turnaround; reconstructing taxi lane and main apron; paving and marking new RW 17 extension, new stub taxiway and new stub taxiway to A hangars and apron area around A hangars; paving and marking T-hangar apron area; installing taxi guidance and hold signs, installing a PAPI-2 for Runway 17 end, miscellaneous electrical improvements; installing miscellaneous drainage improvements.
Moore County Airport	12-17-01	\$1,637,979.00	In general, the work at Moore County Airport consists of: rehabilitating and marking RWs 1-19 and 14-32; rehabilitating and marking parallel taxiways to Runways 1-19 and 14-32; rehabilitate north hangar access taxiway; reconstructing west hangar access taxiway; rehabilitating terminal apron; and install lighted windcone, segmented circle and runway exit signs.
Denton Municipal Airport	12-13-01	\$1,636,151.20	In general, the work at Denton Municipal Airport consists of: reconstructing taxiway and apron; rehabilitating and marking runway, taxiways and apron; construct, mark and light a helipad; install signs and taxiway lights; mill/overlay apron.
Terry County Airport	9-14-01	\$220,178.00	In general, the work at Terry County Airport consists of: cleaning and sealing cracks along RW 2-20, installing slurry seal on Runway 2-20, and striping and marking Runway 2-20. It also includes improvements to the Runway 20 RSA; installation of holding position signs and related electrical appurtenances and the installation of a lighted wind cone and segmented circle and appurtenances.
Muleshoe Municipal Airport	10-18-01	\$132,777.55	In general, the work at Muleshoe Municipal Airport consists of: rehabilitating and marking RW 7-25, rehabilitating and marking TWs, and rehabilitating and marking apron.
Reagan County Airport	10-03-01	\$119,601.00	In general, the work at Reagan County Airport consists of: rehabilitating, striping, and marking RW 16-34 and turnaround; rehabilitating stub taxiways, apron, and hangar access taxi lane, and striping and marking these areas; reconstructing a hangar taxi lane and striping; rehabilitating existing wind cone; and constructing a concrete segmented circle.
Rusty Allen Airport	10-8-01	\$574,322.00	In general, the work at Rusty Allen Airport consists of: rehabilitating and marking RW 15-33; constructing turnarounds; installing MIRL on RW 15-33; rehabilitating TW and apron; installing PAPI-2 RW 33; relocating PAPI-2 RW 15; replacing rotating beacon and tower; and installing obstruction lights and hold signs, and associated appurtenances.
Dalhart Municipal Airport	1-14-02	\$1,878,504.25	In general, the work at Dalhart Municipal Airport consists of: reconstructing RW 3-21; rehabilitating taxiway "B", installing signage, installing secondary lighted windcone RW 35 end, installing erosion/sedimentation controls, reconstructing section of taxiway "A", constructing taxiway "D", and installing PAPI-4 Runway 35 End.

Source: TxDOT Aviation Division

## DRAUGHON-MILLER PLAYS A MAJOR ROLE IN HUEY'S REFURBISHING

The Army plans to retire its UH-1 "Huey" helicopter fleet, between 400 and 600 aircraft, over the next few years. The Aviation and Missile Command Project OLR will recondition the helicopters for use in foreign military sales or international humanitarian missions.

One of the six Project OLR sites worldwide is in Killeen, and Temple Draughon-Miller Central Texas Regional Airport will expand its capacity to handle the helicopters. According to knowledgeable sources, the Temple location allows operations to be coordinated closely with the existing center in Killeen and the workload will be shifted or spread between two locations as necessary.

The Temple location would be used for the initial processing of incoming helicopters: basic inspections, preparation for storage, and removal of sensitive equipment, including addition into the Project OLR database. Additionally, the Temple location would only process aircraft that can be rehabilitated; unflyable aircraft would go to a location in Arizona. Extensive helicopter reconditioning would be done at the Killeen facility.

Huey helicopters have been used in flood and brush fire rescue operations, and for medical evacuations, as well as anti-terrorism efforts. Indeed, a win-win situation for Central Texas and the government--the additional revenue added to the U.S Treasury and a worthwhile program for Texas. This program, which is already on its way, is expected to result in 50 new jobs spread between Temple, Killeen and San Angelo (Project OLR's other Central Texas facility).

## ADVANCED AERODYNAMICS & STRUCTURES, INC. ACQUIRES MOONEY AIRCRAFT

AASI announced on February 8 that it will acquire Mooney Aircraft Corporation (MAC). Mooney, which has produced more than 10,000 aircraft since 1947, has been in Chapter 11 bankruptcy since July 2001.

The new company will be called Mooney Performance Aircraft Company (MPAC) and will use Mooney's existing line--Eagle2, Ovation2, and Bravo--as a "step-up" aircraft to the JetCruzer 500 turboprop, which will likely be renamed the Mooney XP. Plans are for MPAC to build its aircraft at Mooney's existing plant in Kerrville. However, AASI's facility in Long Beach, California will be used as a sales service and delivery center.

The U.S. Bankruptcy Court in San Antonio approved an operating agreement on February 6 that allows AASI to manage Mooney until a reorganization plan is prepared for approval.

MPAC anticipates bringing back as many assembly-line personnel as possible, but management will be entirely restructured. Job prospects are expected to be "very good" in Kerrville. Meanwhile, at the AASI's facility on California's Long Beach Airport, most of the work force will be eliminated. Layoffs have already reduced the number of employees significantly.

The Mooney purchase is costing AASI \$18 million and whose purchase is for Congress Financial Corp.'s position as senior secured creditor for Mooney Aircraft Corp.

Efforts will concentrate on the JetCruzer 500/Mooney XP production--a 345-mph aircraft. The target market will be high-net-worth individuals such as company CEOs who are considering a personal aircraft for the first time. It is expected that the Mooney XP will sell for between \$1.2 million and \$1.5 million. A potential is there for 1,000 units per year.

Expectations are for the Mooney piston production to return to 300 planes per year in three to four years. Additionally, a projected reduction in the average price on the Mooney piston model by \$70,000 seems feasible.



Hondo Municipal Airport- several aircraft which were stepped down, such as the T-3 are now stored inside a hangar leased by Randolph Air Force Base.

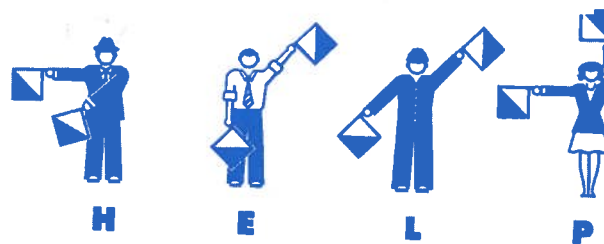
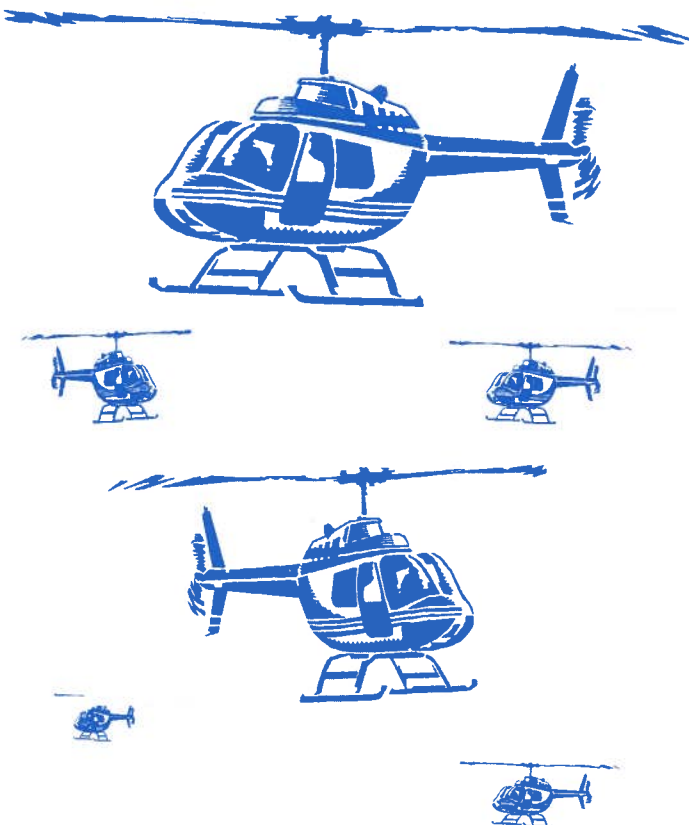


# TEXAS AVIATION HALL OF FAME WRAPS UP 2001 IN GOOD SHAPE!

The Texas Aviation Hall of Fame and its flying division, The Lone Star Flight Museum, finished up the year with some "good numbers" according to Museum President Ralph Royce. "Attendance for 2001 was up 4 percent during the period where some of our Museum friends were reporting decreases in teen [th] percentages," said Royce. "We had a hiccup around September 11th, he continued, "but that was quickly overcome by the upsurge in patriotism. Even though our hometown tourism economy was off, we finished the year with an increase in attendance."

Royce was further enthused about the continued success in volunteer man-hours donated by the Museum's Members. Royce continued, "Last year we had 31,641 man-hours donated to the museum by 289 members and volunteers." [This] equates to a donation value of about \$500,000 by museum industry standards. Clearly, we could not do what we do without our members and volunteers. They are the backbone of this organization."

[The above is an excerpt from a Museum Press Release.]



## ABILENE REGIONAL AIRPORT HAPPENINGS

By Keith Kaspri  
Interim Airport Director

Rick Crider, A.A.E. Airport Director is now the Executive Director at the Gainesville Airport in Gainesville, Florida. In the meantime, I am the interim airport director until Crider's successor is found.

### RECAP:

- \* Phase II of the terminal renovation and expansion project, complete with new passenger loading bridges, should be completed by July 1, and it is anticipated that Phase III will follow shortly.
- \* Survey work continues for future construction of a new FAA Air Traffic Control Tower located directly east of the passenger terminal.
- \* City Council has approved the bid award for a new 1,500-gallon Aircraft Rescue and Fire Fighting vehicle.
- \* Runway 17L/35R, with TxDOT assistance, will receive new pavement rejuvenator, pavement markings and crack seal maintenance. Runway 17R/35L and all air carrier connectors will also receive new pavement markings.
- \* Phase I of the extension of Taxiway Bravo will occur this calendar year.
- \* Installation of a new MALSR for Runway 35R and Runway Safety Area improvements will occur this calendar year also, and
- \* Installation of new perimeter security fence line.

Finally, Abilene Regional Airport may have for sale a variety of used constant current regulators. If any airport has a need for this kind of equipment, airport officials can reach me at 915/676-6367, extension 201, for further information.

# FLIGHT SAFETY

## ACCIDENTS ARE NOT ACCIDENTS. . .

The FAA's top-ten list of things that lead to crashes.\*

- 1) Inadequate preflight preparation.
- 2) Failure to obtain or maintain flying speed.
- 3) Failure to maintain directional control.
- 4) Improper level off.
- 5) Failure to see and avoid objects or obstructions.
- 6) Inadequate fuel management.
- 7) Inadequate inflight planning and decision-making.
- 8) Failure to properly judge distance and speed.
- 9) Landing on unsuitable terrain.
- 10) Improper operation of flight controls.

\*Federal Aviation Regulations/Aeronautical Information Manual, Section 7-5-1.



The Aviation Division continues to serve the public throughout the state by providing lending services to patrons by mail.

**POLICY:** Any resident of Texas can check out three video tapes at a time for two weeks at no charge. Only return postage is necessary.

**MEMBERSHIP:** To enroll in our database, write to TxDOT Aviation Division, 125 E. 11th Street, Austin, Texas 78701; and give your name, address, telephone number, as well as your driver's license number. After membership enrollment, a video catalog of tapes will be sent to you for your review. You can then place your order at your convenience by calling our 800 number.

**AUSTIN PATRONS:** Office Hours - Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to Noon and 1:00 p.m. through 4:00 p.m. (Closed for Lunch).

For more information, please contact Donald Brown at 1/800/68-PILOT.

### INTERESTING VIDEOS:

- V1107 The Wright Stuff
- V1129 The Annual Inspection, Vol. 2
- V1130 Introduction to Aircraft Ownership, Vol. 3
- V1131 Fly Girls
- V1165 Flyers in Search of a Dream



# HAPPY



## Memorial Day!



# AVIATION MILESTONES



- Apr 6** Customs inspections of airline passengers begin in Brussels, Belgium, 1919.
- Apr 12** Columbia, the world's first operational space shuttle, is launched from Cape Canaveral, Florida, for a two-day flight, 1981.
- Apr 24** Soviet Cosmonaut Vladimir Komarov is the first person to die during a spaceflight. On April 23 he was launched to test Soyuz 1, a spacecraft designed to travel to the moon. Soon after reaching orbit, Komarov encountered problems; occasional tumbling progressed to uncontrollable spinning. Flight controllers had Komarov's wife rushed to mission control when they feared that a successful re-entry would be impossible. Unable to stabilize the spacecraft, Komarov bid his wife farewell. The descent parachute deployed only partially on re-entry, and Soyuz 1 crashed to earth at 350 mph, 1967.
- May 4** Katherine Stinson gives a brief aerobatic demonstration at night over New York City. Stinson had planned a daylight show, but her biplane arrived too late in the Sheepshead Bay Speedway to be assembled before nightfall. Rather than disappoint her audience, she gamely took off, ascended to 3,000 feet, and made two loops, which were traced by lights on the airplane. Her landing on the racetrack was illuminated by red flares, 1916.
- May 5** Alan Shepard, the first American in space, makes a 15-minute sub-orbital flight of an altitude of 116 miles in the Mercury capsule Freedom 7, 1961.
- May 6** The German airship Hindenburg is destroyed in an unexplained explosion and fire while docking at Lakehurst, New Jersey, marking the end of commercial airship service, 1937.
- May 15** Ellen Church, a registered nurse, becomes the world's first airline stewardess, aboard a Boeing Air Transport Model 80, 1930.
- May 15** The U.S. Army Signal Corps establishes the first American airmail service, from Washington, D.C. to New York City, using Curtiss JNs and Standard Js. The inaugural flight was less than auspicious: for a quarter hour, attempts to start the airplane failed--then the pilot discovered the airplane was out of fuel; after he finally took off, he headed south instead of north, ending up in a Maryland cornfield with a broken propeller. The airmail continued by train. Not to be outdone, the Post Office had printed a block of 100 airmail stamps with what would become one of the most widely recognized errors in postal history: the image of the JN-4 Jenny airplane on the stamp was inadvertently printed upside-down, 1918.
- May 18** At 8:32 a.m. Mount St. Helens erupts, closing nearby airports for up to two weeks and producing the worst volcanic disaster in U.S. history. The catastrophe started with a 5.1 magnitude earthquake, which caused the north side of the summit to collapse. Geologist Keith Toffel witnessed the unexpected avalanche from a light airplane: "The nature of the movement was eerie . . . I was amazed and excited with the realization that we were watching this landslide of unbelievable proportions." The sudden collapse released pressurized steam and gas, which exploded in a blast that devastated 230 square miles. Hot ash from the explosion, which reached an altitude of 12 miles, killed about 60 people, darkened the skies of Yakima and Spokane, and fouled aircraft engines, 1980.
- May 24** The British Airways/Air France supersonic Concorde begins passenger service from London and Paris to Washington, D.C. Flight time is about three hours, 45 minutes at an altitude of 55,000 to 60,000 feet at cruise speeds of approximately twice the speed of sound (Mach 2 or 1,350 mph). Of the 20 Concorde built, 11 are in service today. The fare is \$4,300 to \$5,100 and the 100-passenger planes fly 60 to 65 percent full. The Concorde may also be chartered for approximately \$16,000 per hour (at \$11.85 a mile or so, that's not much more than a Manhattan cab ride--even less if you take along 99 friends), 1976.

Source: Air & Space Magazine

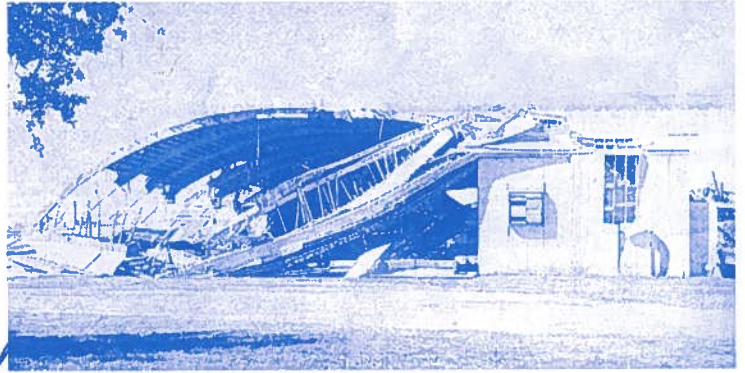
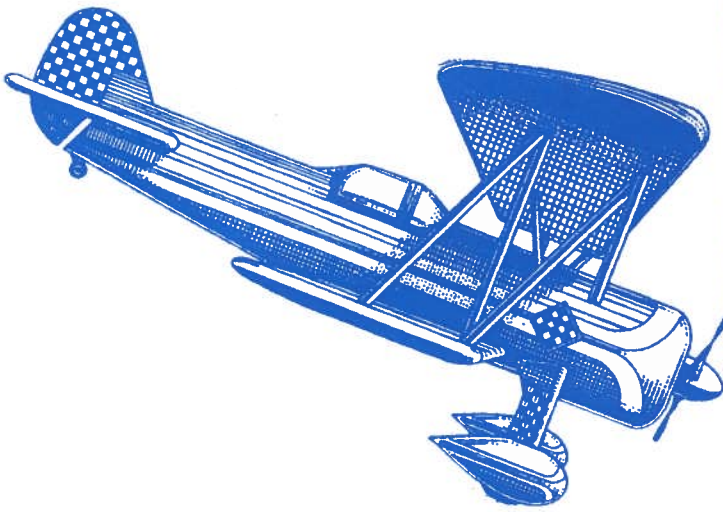


# RECENT AVIATION CAPSULES . . .

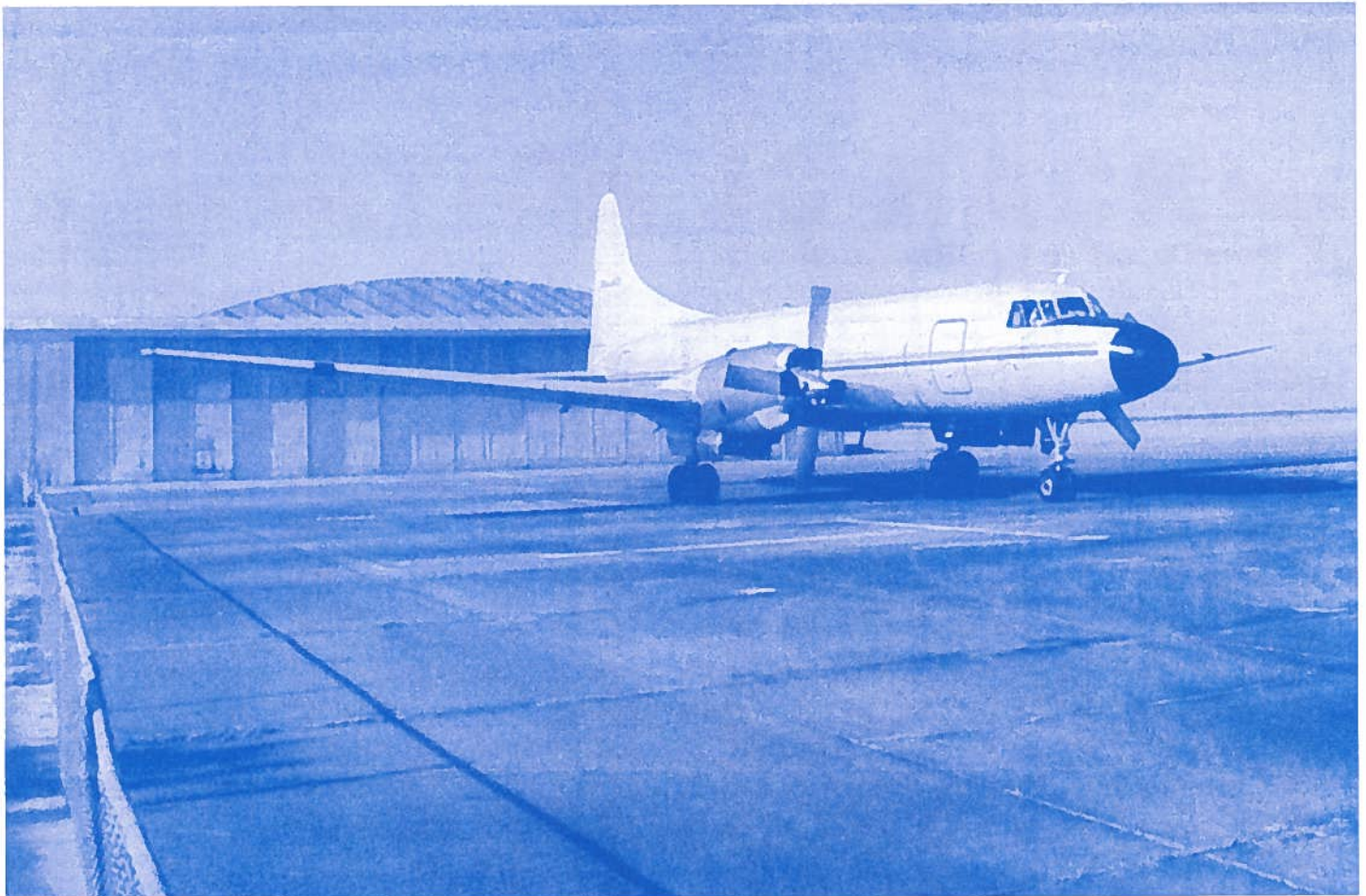
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- **LAREDO INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT** announced that Continental Express Airlines will begin providing regional jet service between Laredo International and George Bush Intercontinental Airports starting April 9.
- **HOUSTON AIRPORT SYSTEM (HAS)** handled 3.4 million passengers in December and 43.5 million in 2001. George Bush Intercontinental Airport (IAH) handled 2.7 million, William P. Hobby Airport (HOU) had 642,769 and Ellington Field had 6,015 passengers in December. For 2001, IAH served 34.8 million travelers, HOU handled 8.6 million and EFD had 60,255. HAS handled over 58.5 million pounds of cargo in December and over 705 million pounds of freight in 2001.
- **LAREDO INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT** now provides travelers the options of boarding Mexican and Azteca Airline jets for direct flights to Mexico City. On March 11, Azteca began offering a daily flight seven days a week to and from Mexico City on Boeing 737 jets, with a 130-140 seat capacity. Mexicana offers Saturday and Sunday departure and arrival flights. Mexicana flights are on Fokker 100 jets, with a 101-seat capacity.
- **FAA ENVIRONMENTAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARD** - The Texas Department of Transportation Aviation Division has developed a methodology to calculate construction emissions in order to comply with the general conformity requirements in the Clear Air Act. Special recognition goes to Engineering Section staff members John Greer, Greg Miller, and Josh Martin; and Planning and Programming Section Airport Planner, Sandra Gaither for this year's award. Well done!
- **TRANS TEXAS CORRIDOR INFORMATION ON INTERNET** - The Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) has launched recently a new feature on its website ([www.dot.state.tx.us](http://www.dot.state.tx.us)) that provides information about TTC, a new 4,000-mile multi-use transportation corridor--including highways, rail and utilities--introduced by Governor Rick Perry and members of the Texas Transportation Commission in January.
- **TxDOT AVIATION DIVISION** congratulates Rene Alvarez, 17 years, a senior at Austin's Bowie High School on receiving his Letter of Acceptance and Scholarship Award from the University of Texas School of Business in Austin. The \$12,000 scholarship is for a full four-year term starting September 2002. Rene is the son of Rudy and Yolanda Alvarez. Yolanda is Manager of Aviation Division's Information Section. Kudos to the proud parents!
- **GARNER FIELD, Uvalde** - Hangar Two, an old landmark, is history as demolition crews destroyed the hangar in January. The building was not sturdy enough to support a future building.
- **PALACIOS MUNICIPAL AIRPORT** - A Florida-based "fly on demand" air cargo transport company, Geo Air, has set up shop at Palacios Airport for a 90-day trial period. Geo Air estimates 50 percent of its business is from the shrimp industry; it has been searching for a base that is situated on a line between Mexico and the United States. Great chance for a permanent expansion!
- **SAN MARCOS CIVIL AIR PATROL** celebrated with 67,000 other members of the air patrol nationwide their 60 years of service in December. The San Marcos operation has 47 members, a van and an Air Force plane operating out of a hangar at San Marcos Municipal Airport. Locally, air patrol pilots assist law enforcement during floods, run missions for the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration and Immigration and Naturalization Services including watching for fire outbreaks in rural areas. The squadrons, including two in Austin and another in Georgetown, also control crowds at aviation events.
- **BERCLAIR AIRFIELD** reopened in February as The Goliad County Industrial Airpark--a combination airport and industrial park which is expected to bring additional business to rural Texas and to create new jobs.
- **FAA ADMINISTRATOR JANE GARVEY** received the Distinguished Service Award from the National Air Transportation Association at the association's Annual Meeting and Convention in Indianapolis, Indiana.
- **WOMAN PILOT AMBASSADOR** - Judy Rice, Project Manager of the Experimental Aircraft Association (EAA) Aviation Foundation's Science-Math-Technology Project, has been named a "Woman Pilot Ambassador" by Women Pilot magazine, recognizing her efforts in aviation, particularly aviation education.
- **JETBLUE AIRWAYS**, headquartered in Kew Gardens, New York, is expected to buy \$500 million worth of Airbus A320s for delivery over the next several years. JetBlue now operates more flights than it did before September 11 and is one of the few commercial carriers that has not defaulted on aircraft orders.
- **GPS** - a report by the Heritage Foundation cites the Global Positioning System (GPS) as a critical infrastructure component in need of extra protection. "Disruption [of GPS] by terrorist groups or hostile states could jeopardize America's homeland security, but the GPS has not been designated as a vital national asset. President George W. Bush should immediately add the GPS to the current list of vital national infrastructure and assign responsibility for its security to the U.S. Department of Defense. Immediate steps should begin to make the GPS network more secure."
- **AIRBUS** recently conducted the first flight for its A340 aircraft, the manufacturer's longest-range airliner. The flight lasted five hours and 52 minutes, starting and finishing at Blagnac Airport in Toulouse, France. According to the company, the aircraft is powered by four Rolls-Royce Plc Trent 500 engines, and can fly up to 15,800 kilometers.





Uvalde's Garner Field Airport - Hangar Two, an old landmark began tumbling down recently as demolition got under way.



Palacios Municipal Airport recently welcomed Geo Air Transport which is considering using this airport as one of its bases of operations.

## FAVORITE WEB SITES

**Aerial Advertising**  
[www.airbanners.com](http://www.airbanners.com)  
[www.airads.com](http://www.airads.com)

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[www.azsoaring.com](http://www.azsoaring.com)

**Aviation Antiques**  
[www.aviation-antiques.com](http://www.aviation-antiques.com)

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

- May 5** Texas 100 Air Race, Georgetown, Texas
- May 11** EAA Chapter 834 Fly-Market, Mt. Vernon, Texas
- May 11-12** Amigo Airsho, El Paso, Texas
- May 25** Warbirds Over Addison, Addison, Texas
- June 1** Thermal & Cross Country Camp for Glider Pilots, Marfa, Texas
- June 7-9** Lake Texoma Ultralight Gathering, Gordonville, Texas

*Editor's Note: For most recent entries, check our Texas Aviation Calendar of Events at our Web site, [www.dot.state.tx.us](http://www.dot.state.tx.us).*

*Deadline for article submissions for the July 2002 Wingtips is June 1.*



**Texas Department of Transportation**

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AVIATION DIVISION

