



NATIONAL AIR TRANSPORT, INC.

General Offices, 310 So. Michigan Blvd.

CHICAGO, ILL.

Dallas, Texas,
June 26, 1926

Mr. Amon G. Carter, Publisher,
Fort Worth Star-Telegram,
Fort Worth, Texas

Dear Mr. Carter:

Please take the time to glance through this letter to the President of the Amarillo Chamber of Commerce. Upon receipt of a private letter from Amarillo, I felt it wise to call you and in your absence from the office talk to Mr. North, who promised me that he would immediately write to the proper people in Amarillo. I felt that you were the one to turn to in this situation, as in my judgment it required friendly correction.

Yours sincerely,

Luther K. Bell,
General Traffic Manager,
NATIONAL AIR TRANSPORT, INC.

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Dallas, Texas.
June 26, 1926

Mr. W. W. Flenniken, President,
Chamber of Commerce,
Amarillo, Texas

My dear Mr. Flenniken:

You probably read in the Amarillo newspaper of my visit to Amarillo last Tuesday during the convention of the West Texas Chamber of Commerce. I am writing you this rather lengthy letter to set the records straight, as I am informed it is possible there may be some misunderstanding among the business men of Amarillo as to how I came to make the visit to your city and exactly what I had in mind.

Last summer while in contact with Mr. Amon G. Carter, Publisher of the Fort Worth Star-Telegram, Mr. A. B. Spencer, Manager of the Fort Worth Chamber of Commerce and Mr. Homer D. Wade, then Assistant Manager of the West Texas Chamber of Commerce, it was felt that a great deal of mutual benefit would result from our visiting Amarillo during the meeting of the West Texas Chamber of Commerce. Accordingly Colonel Paul Henderson, our General Manager and I, upon the solicitation of our Fort Worth friends, agreed not only to come to Amarillo but to send at least one of our ships to your city. Colonel Henderson was called East and was unable to make the trip. He instructed me to do so, however, and provided me with one of our regular cargo airplanes, which we loaded partly with our maps, schedules, envelopes, etc. and partly with Mr. Carter's paper.

In the last few weeks, I have received many suggestions that a feeder air line service into Amarillo connecting with Oklahoma City and Tulsa would be appreciated. Colonel Henderson requested especially that I look into this matter. Accordingly on June 18th from Dallas, Texas I sent Mr. Wade the following night letter.

"National Air Transport sending Carrier Pigeon from Fort Worth to Amarillo Tuesday June twenty-second. I will arrive Tuesday morning by train from Oklahoma City. Would appreciate if you could arrange to have Air Mail time tables distributed. Desirous of private conference with you and few responsible Amarillo business men relative to Air service this is confidential. Will leave Amarillo Tuesday night for Oklahoma City. Wire me Dallas Chamber of Commerce."

On June 19th I received the following telegram from Mr. Wade.

"Your wire will arrange conference in line with your request. Be glad to assist you in any other way possible.

I went to Oklahoma City as per schedule and while there, Mr. Ed Overholser, President of the Oklahoma City Chamber of Commerce, suggested that it might be helpful if he were to give me a letter of introduction to you. This I gratefully accepted. He gave me two letters, one an open letter of introduction and the other a sealed letter addressed privately to you.

I arrived in Amarillo on the morning train from Oklahoma City June 22nd. I went many times to the Amarillo Chamber of Commerce, but was unable to connect with Mr. Wade. One of my good friends from Dallas, Mr. B. B. Owens, who is a personal friend of one of your citizens, Mr. Toney Chisum, looked me up at the Chamber of Commerce, in company with Mr. Chisum. I was introduced I believe to the Secretary of your local Chamber of Commerce, whose name I do not recall. I told this gentleman I had a letter of introduction to you and gave it to him. I assume of course that it eventually reached you. I did not give to this gentleman the personal letter of introduction from Mr. Overholser. I made several attempts to find you, but was unsuccessful. I am attaching herewith this private letter from Mr. Overholser, the contents of which I believe you will find have an intimate bearing on the subject matter of this letter.

While I was at the Chamber of Commerce there was discussion about a conference but apparently no one knew anything concerning it. I realize that I appeared as a total stranger and at a time when many thousands of people were in Amarillo, and while I was disappointed in not being able to meet you, I feel that this could be corrected later.

While Mr. Chisum, Mr. Owens and I were at the Chamber of Commerce, we heard our plane come in from Fort Worth. I immediately hired an automobile and went to the field bringing in with me our Air Mail literature and the Fort Worth papers. As no arrangements had apparently been made for the distribution of this material, I hired nine news boys and saw that the material was placed in the various delegation headquarters. Later through the courtesy of one of Mr. Carter's employes - Mr. Evans, copies of the Fort Worth Record-Telegram, containing our schedules, were distributed in the convention itself.

I was so engaged in this distribution work that I saw no one until about lunch time, when I chanced to meet Mr. Carter and later Mr. J. F. Matchett, Assistant Cashier of the Exchange National Bank, Tulsa, Oklahoma, a personal friend.

I am writing you the above as I feel that there should be no misunderstanding as to the purpose of my visit. I think after reading Mr. Overholser's letter and hearing also from Mr. Carter, you will realize that our corporation has no stock to sell, is adequately financed and is desirous of supplying air service wherever there may be sufficient demand. I may add in conclusion, that the business men of both Oklahoma City and Tulsa having substantial holdings in the Amarillo field are desirous of seeing what can be worked out along the lines of a Tulsa-Oklahoma-City Amarillo service.

I trust that you will accept the above as an earnest expression of our part to correct any confusion that may have developed.

Please be assured that I am ready to return to Amarillo upon my next visit to the southwest should the business men of Amarillo desire to go into this matter further.

Yours very truly,

LKB:EH

Luther K. Bell,
General Traffic Manager,
NATIONAL AIR TRANSPORT, INC.