

AMON CARTER AND AVIATION

January, 1911 - International Aviators on the Fair Grounds in Dallas were asked by Amon Carter what they would charge to stage an exhibition in Fort Worth. Mr. Young, the Business Manager, looked Carter up and down, presumably to gauge his limit, and replied "\$5,000.00." Carter asked if they would fly and they replied, "weather permitting." In the party were four Frenchmen, Roland Garros, Rene Simon, Edmond Audemais and Rene Barrier, Frisbie, Cy Young and Hamilton, who had raced the Twentieth Century Limited from Albany to New York. The planes were brought into Fort Worth by train from Dallas. The pilots were reluctant to fly because of a slight breeze. Roland Garros finally took the mosquito-like plane into the air for 15 minutes despite protests of his comrades. Therefore, Fort Worth had its first taste of aviation.

October, 1911 - Cal Rodgers, making a cross-country flight from Chicago to Los Angeles advertising a soft drink named "Vin Fiz" for Armour & Company, stopped off in Fort Worth and was tendered a dinner by Carter and friends, at which Rodgers prophesied the time would come when a plane could fly from Chicago to the Pacific Ocean in 30 days. Unfortunately, Rodgers' plane cracked up in Pasadena on the 28th day.

November, 1915 - United States Air Force moved from Fort Sill, Oklahoma to what was later known as Kelly Field. The First Air Squadron was headed by Captain Benjamin D. Foulois, (Captain Foulois later was Air Chief), who landed Plane #42A, a 90 horsepower biplane, in a pasture before a crowd of 3,000.00. He was accompanied by the following crew members:

#48 Lieutenant Thomas S. Bowen

#45 Lieutenant Joseph E. Carberry

#52 Lieutenant T. DeWitt Milling

#43 Lieutenant Ira R. Rader

#53 Lieutenant Carleton G. Chapman.

Carter was toastmaster at a banquet that night in honor of the fliers, who remained over in Fort Worth from Saturday night to Monday morning.

1928 - Carter assisted in the organization of Texas Air Transport, predecessor of American Airways and later American Airlines. Carter has been a Director of American Airlines since its organization more than twenty years ago.

1931 - First plane to fly mail and passenger in and out of Fort Worth, a Travel-air monoplane, equipped with a J-5 motor and four cane-bottom chairs, was retired to Carter's Shady Oak Farm by Colonel Paul Henderson who, at that time was President of National Air Transport.

August, 1934 - Carter was aboard Pan-American "Brazilian Clipper" opening new route to Rio, Montevideo and Buenos Aires.

October, 1936 - Carter passenger on first Pan-American's "Manila Clipper" inaugurating flight to Philippines and Hong Kong.

June 19, 1937 - \$150,000 administration building at Fort Worth's municipal airport (Meacham Field) dedicated to Carter, who was called "Range Rider of the Air."

July, 1939 - Carter passenger on first Pan-American's "Yankee Clipper" opening northern route to Europe.

1940 - Carter passenger on Pan-Am's "American Clipper" opening service to Hawaii, Canton Island, New Caledonia and Auckland, New Zealand.

1941 - War Department, at urging of Carter and Chamber of Commerce, selected Fort Worth as site for \$15,000,000 Bomber Plant to be operated by Consolidated Aircraft Corporation.

Carter christened the first B-24 bomber made at Consolidated Plant in Fort Worth, with a gold plate naming the ship "City of Fort Worth."

Later Carter performed the same service on the B-32, likewise naming it "Fort Worth", using a gold plate.

1947 - Carter performed similar service in placing a gold plate on the first B-36 produced at the same Consolidated Plant.

February, 1949 - B-50 Super Bomber "Lucky Lady II" took off from Carswell Air Base, Fort Worth, for a nonstop flight around the world. Carter presided at a dinner at which airmen of the plane were presented honorary citizenships in Fort Worth and given gold medals for aeronautical achievement.

January, 1950 - Air Force Exceptional Service award presented to Carter at Washington by Air Secretary W. Stuart Symington, who described Carter as "one of the nation's foremost friends of both military and civilian aviation." Symington said the medal carried with it "the gratitude of every man in the Air Force."

June, 1950 - Carter passenger on trip opening deluxe strato clipper service for Pan-American to Rio, Montevideo and Buenos Aires.

June, 1950 - Fort Worth City Council named the \$12,000,000 new administration building and air field at the Greater Fort Worth International Airport for Carter.

Petition filed by 170 civic leaders said Carter had "led the fight for the airport for eight years" and Carter had "brought first aviation to Fort Worth." The petition further stated "he has tirelessly and unselfishly devoted his boundless energy and his own money to the purpose of building here a greater aviation center. His exceptional effort has brought to Fort Worth a cash flow of several billion dollars for payrolls, materials and supplies."

September 20, 1950 - At New York at the installation dinner of the American Legion Post #501, Carter was named to receive the Eleventh Annual Frank Hawks Memorial Award on December 5, 1950 for outstanding contributions to development and growth of military and commercial aviation.

Frank Hawks was vice commander of the Post, the legion's oldest aviation post, when he was killed in a plane crash 12 years ago. Hawks and Carter were close personal friends, and Hawks was a frequent visitor to Fort Worth.

In choosing Carter for the award, post officials said Carter was largely responsible for making Fort Worth the home of the B-36.