DUNWOODY

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Convention Reporter
Stenotype Specialist
5701 HIGHLAND AVENUE
Kansas City 4, Missouri

June 11, 1947

Mr. Amon Carter
The Star-Telegram
Fort Worth, Texas

Dear Mr. Carter:

I thought you just might like to have a look at the transcript of your remarks at the NAA banquet before I send the official record to Washington.

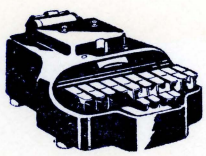
I have spent several hours trying to get the correct spelling of the names of early aviators you mentioned. The Early Birds I talked with had not heard of a "Roland deRoche" (the phonetics in my notes) and wondered if it was Roland Garros.

I hope it will be possible for you to return the O.K.'d manuscript by return mail, as I must send the transcript to NAA headquarters as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

DUNWOODY REPORTING SERVICE

Donna Dunwoody



REMARKS

Amon Carter

Thank you very much, Mr. Pogue. You are very generous and the Association is extremely generous in its appreciation of all those interested in aviation.

We in Fort Worth have been interested in

aviation for a long time. Naturally, there is nothing I shall cherish more or appreciate more than this life membership. For the benefit of my banker in the audience, this is real gold. It should make good collateral.

You are very nice, Mr. Pogue. We had the good fortune to have Mr. Pogue down here when he was Chairman of the Civil Aeronautics Board. He was good enough to stop over and spend the night with us. The next day they had arrangements to entertain him over east of here. It was one of the few times they got up early in the morning. We had thought we would have a chance to be with Mr. Pogue at breakfast, but the distinguished guests from over east of here arrived to take Mr. Pogue over there.

At that time we told Mr. Pogue that we were building a great ship out here in Fort Worth, the Consolidated Vultee's man-of-war, now man-of-peace, good will or whatever you want to term it. The more of those we produce, the easier peace will be for this country. This BX-36 flies ten thousand miles and carries I don't know how many cases - of atomic bombs, more terrific though perhaps less consoling than other means of atmospheric conditions of that kind.

This plane we are building here will fly ten thousand miles and drop ten thousand pounds of atomic bombs on almost any country. You can figure out the greatest distance to any country you can imagine, and you might figure

it would be one country we would have no conflict with. Yet the best way to keep out of conflict is to maintain a very strong organization in aviation, plus the Navy and Army which must be coordinated together.

There is no price too high to pay for liberty. There is no ceiling price on liberty. The greatest prospect we have for liberty is to prepare to meet eventualities as they may materialize. So, Mr. Pogue, we in Fort Worth feel extremely fortunate in living in a community that is producing this great man-of-war. We hope it will be used only for peace.

Aviation has come a long way in the last few years. The war has moved aviation up twenty-five or thirty years. Without it all the engineering and developments in the new ships being built would probably we coming along twenty-five years hence.

Congress is cutting expenses down. Some of the gentlemen up there who are not in accord with the President of this country are making a reputation for themselves by trying to cut taxes. Don't forget the man who walked around to town for four years to save enough money to have his shoes half-soled. Let's not sacrifice the safety of this country by penny-wise, pound-foolish legislation that will curtail the activity of the country should the time come when our liberty is endangered.

People thought World War I would be the last war. No one thought we would have this one. The best way not to have another war is to be prepared for it in every way. There were few who would jump on Jes Willard or Jack Dempsey in their prime, but when they passed their prime there were plenty to step forward who had been thinking about licking them for a long time. There will be a lot who can whip Joe Louis in fifteen or ~~twenty~~ 10 years. That same thing applies to our country. We need to keep in our prime by keeping this country well prepared.

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We have been interested in aviation in Fort Worth for a long time. Our first experience was in 1910 when the International Fliers, Roland Garros, ~~Hampton, and~~ HAMILTON Frisbie, came over to east Texas to ~~do some flying~~. Some of us went over there. We had a difficult time, had to argue with a lot of cops at the race track over there. After gaining admission to royalty we asked, "Will you come to Fort Worth to fly?" Then, "What will you charge us?"

That last question reminds me of the elevator conveyance at Seventh and Main Streets in the Hoxey Building with the Fort Worth National Bank. It was the only elevator in town, and I remember the first time I went up in it. At the top I said, "How much do I owe you?" When the operator said, "Nothing", I said, "Well, then, I'll ride back down with you."

So when I asked him, "How much will you charge us to fly in Fort Worth?" he looked me over thoroughly. He wanted to charge me as much as he could get, but not so much he wouldn't get us. So he looked me up and down, and I guess that was one of the few times I rated the $5,000 class. They would come over for $5,000. We hurried back and had a meeting of the Board of Trade. Ten of us there put up $500 guarantee to bring the International Fliers to Fort Worth. Well, our race track burned the night before the scheduled show. But we got some beer kegs and lumber and we sold $6,400 worth of tickets. Then nobody would fly. Finally Garros went up in a little plane ~~that did thirty miles per hour.~~ He circled around and got up to one thousand feet. I got a picture from that flight and said, "No more aviation for me."

Then we had "Cal" Rodgers speak at a dinner of the Chamber of Commerce in the Metropolitan Hotel. He prophesied then that the time would come when you could fly from Chicago to the Pacific in thirty days; but he didn't quite make it. He cracked up in Pasadena in twenty-nine days.

Uncle Sam had forty-eight planes that came down here to Fort Worth. We had Standards whizzing in here at sixty miles an hour. The men spent Saturday night at the Metropolitan Hotel here and we had a dinner for them. That was in October of 1915 when "Benny" Foulois was the

ranking officer. They were moving to Kelly Field. Starting from Fort Sill, to Waco, to Austin, and to San Antonio it took them five days. Five days!

Now I have an opportunity to make a trip around the world in twelve days. Of course, that doesn't mean much to Milton Reynolds who went around it in seventy-eight hours - but he was in a hurry.

This trip I speak of starts from New York with stops at London, Istanbul, Damascus, Karachi, Calcutta, Bangkok, Manilla, Shanghai, Tokyo, Guam, Wake, Honolulu, back to San Francisco and home to Fort Worth.

That is quite an advance from the days when it took five days to fly from Fort Sill ~~down here.~~

We do want you to know that we are tremendously interested in aviation and what it means to our country. Fort Worth is really air-minded. We are happy to have all these distinguished people visit us. Captain Donaldson up here has been in the RAF since 1930. He's now thirty-five, just a kid. Recently he flew the Gloster Meteor at 616 miles per hour. So we have at this table two very outstanding fliers - Mr. Donaldson who flew the fastest and Mr. Reynolds who flew around the world in the quickest time.

We are indeed grateful that you have held your meeting here in Fort Worth. It has been a pleasure to meet so many distinguished guests.

I remember when Mr. Pogue was leaving here to go to east Texas, we went out to the Consolidated plant to see the bomber, and the hat of one of the east Texas friends blew off and circled around. I said to him, "Don't go back and say we were responsible for that."

Mr. Pogue in his position finds there is a certain amount of competitiveness. I think competition is the inspiration of life. If we don't have competition of some kind, we're not so ambitious. Life is built on ambition. Your ambitious to have a better plane, a better hotel, a better ball club - I am speaking of no particular hotel - a better football team. It is ambition that makes life worthwhile. Any time you become satisfied and pleased, watch out.

Walter Brown was Postmaster General when the first flight came through to California. Until then we had had no service to Mexico and none to California. When the first flight came through we had a dinner out at the farm that I was formerly connected with. It now belongs to my son. It is one of the few farms in the country that has lost money consistently for twenty-five years and has never had a government subsidy.

Eddie Rickenbacker, who shot down twenty-six planes in the first war, told us some stories about things that would happen in aviation, and at the time they seemed fantastic, but they turned out to be very minor compared to

what has actually happened.

The subject of community interest came up. I think community interest is all right as long as you keep it in one community, but when you have too many communities in it, there is a certain amount of detrimental disturbance. They seemed to think we would all be just one big city, moving in together. I said, "Mr. Brown, it's all right to take a shot in the arm, but it's a question of who gets shot first. When that time arrives when Fort Worth feels we are just one big city, I want to be chloroformed because my usefulness will be at an end. We are fighting for Fort Worth, for Des Moines, for San Antonio.

I don't suppose anybody has had an opportunity to hear more stories about why their city is not getting a fair break in aviation than your president. He has probably listened to more grief and more disturbance from communities than anybody I know of.

Thanks again to Mr. Pogue, to Mr. Bowen, to Mr. Donaldson, and to Mr. Reynolds. Whether or not your pen writes under water, I am glad to know you didn't try it on this trip. He presented me with a pen that writes in both red and black. This is the first day for a long time that I have been able to use the black end of it.

It's nice of you folks to come to Fort Worth. This little gold card Mr. Pogue read to you will be a real

token of appreciation on my part. I hope aviation will continue to grow, and that the National Aeronautic Association ~~and all the good folks here tonight~~ will continue to be for aviation ~~because~~ I think it is the backbone and the salvation of this country.

If we had one hundred BX-36's that could fly around over these countries that are always against everything, they might see the light quicker. It is a lot easier to say "No" without a stick than to say "Yes" with a justification. ~~I say~~, "Let's make a hundred of them, or two hundred." I would rather fly around in one of those planes than to fly around the world.

We had Jimmy Doolittle, General Spaatz, and General Ramey, who dropped the first atomic bomb on the Japs. Some people said it was inhuman, but it looked as though it turned out to be practical because it closed the war and saved the lives of many people. We have had a lot of distinguished guests visit Fort Worth. We believe in aviation. We believe in its future, its opportunities, its growth and development.

Let's never become self-satisfied and self-sufficient to the point where we think nothing can happen to us. There never has been anybody who got real cocky but what sombody didn't feed him a rock he couldn't digest. Let's be able to digest anything anybody slips to us. Thank you very much.