

Copy to  
Amon Carter

(S)

July 9, 1951

Governor Allen Shivers,  
The State Capitol,  
Austin, Texas.

Dear Governor:

American Airlines started its first transcontinental air service to California in 1930, through Dallas, Fort Worth and El Paso to Los Angeles. The old company was Southern Air Transport, later taken over by American.

That was in the days of no beacons, no radio and nearly nothing except airplanes and pilots with experience and courage. Although not long ago it was pioneering in the real sense, and we paid for it. Several of our pilots lost their lives in the operation.

The stretch around Guadalupe Pass was especially troublesome for the low altitude planes. Today that peak does not loom very large when you are flying at 20,000 feet, but when you were flying at 2,000 it looked large enough.

We have planned for a long time to put a monument on the top of Guadalupe Peak to the pioneer pilots. The details have not worked out but it would be a figure of a pilot large enough to be visible for distance.

I believe that Guadalupe is a State Park. If so, and if you think well of the general project, would you give it your tentative blessing and ask the appropriate agency of the State government to communicate with us about the permit and details. Your aid will be gratefully received.

This is a worthy endeavor; otherwise we would not ask your aid.

Sincerely yours,

C. R. Smith

