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Louisiana Aviation: An Extraordinary History In Photographs



Synopsis

At the beginning of the twentieth century the skies presented a new frontier, one that attracted daredevils, businessmen, politicians, and engineers enticed by a new form of transportation. Louisiana entrepreneurs and pilots proved instrumental in ushering in the Golden Age of Aviation. They advanced aircraft design, revolutionized aerial crop dusting, pioneered airmail routes, pushed the limits of stunt flying, and entertained spectators with air races. A pilot and freelance writer with more than twenty years of experience in the aviation industry, Vincent P. Caire chronicles the state's history of flight in 196 vintage and contemporary photographs, many never-before published. Photos of early aviation pioneer John Moisant, air racing champion General James Doolittle, barnstormer Roscoe Turner, aircraft designer James Wedell, and founder of Delta Airlines C. E. Woolman reflect Louisiana's zeal for aeronautics. Caire explains how the efforts of Senator Huey P. Long and Harry P. Williams, co-owner of the Wedell-Williams Air Service in Patterson, Louisiana, influenced the development of viable airmail routes throughout the southeastern United States. Rarely seen photographs depict the Art Deco elegance of the first modern, multioperational passenger terminal in the nation -- Shushan Airport in New Orleans. A captivating visual tour spanning one hundred years, Louisiana Aviation celebrates the state's air history, evident in Louisiana's seventy airports, 5,000 aircraft, 7,000 pilots, and numerous airshows in operation today.

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Customer Reviews

I have been a pilot for over eight years, born and raised in Louisiana, and I still learned SO MUCH

from this book. The text offers a fascinating glimpse into the influential history of aviation in Louisiana including the start of Delta Air Lines in Monroe, Shushan Airport (now Lakefront Airport), and Amelia Earhart's stopover at Shushan Airport and what was likely a game-changing crew change while overnighing at Shushan Airport. The pictures offer splendid representations of the endless variety of airplanes, airports, and pilots that played a role in developing the aviation industry in Louisiana. I wish there were a great book like this about the history of aviation in every state.

As a retired Delta employee, I was interested to see what coverage the author gave to our early activities in Monroe. Good account of the early activities in Louisiana, especially considering the page limits. Image caption on page 37 is incorrect, the aircraft pictured are Huff-Daland dusters with the exception of one Travel Air 2000 in the middle. Image was taken circa 1930. Aircraft on page 40 shown inflight is actually a Curtiss-Wright model 6-B, not an original Travel Air S-6000-B. Nice writeup about Delta founder, C.E. Woolman, who was certainly a visionary. Learned a lot about Shushan Airport and the politics behind the construction and name change! I would eecommend this book to those interested in Louisiana aviation history.

How can you write a book on Louisiana Aviation and mention "all" of the important people and leave out the founder of Delta Air Lines, C.E. Woolman. Otherwise the book is pretty nice. I hope they will do a revised update of it and include Mr. Woolman. I had the opportunity to work for Delta and met Mr. Woolman in person several times when he would visit the cockpit. He was loved by his employees because of his caring attitude towards them.

Excellent coffee table book, especially for any pilot residing in Louisiana. I saw this laying around a local FBO at Lakefront airport and was hooked. Interesting section on Amelia Earhart's stop off at Lakefront on her last trip...I had no idea there she initially had a crew of 3 but one stayed behind in N.O.

Great history !

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