



Currently on Display
at the
Cochise College
Douglas Campus,
Aviation Department



*The Douglas
Flyer Replica*



Photos of the current replica of the Flyer
built by Arvin Shultz, Rich Ivansek and Bernie Gross.

**City of Douglas
Border Air Museum**

3200 10th Street
Open only by appointment
Call (520) 417-7344 for information

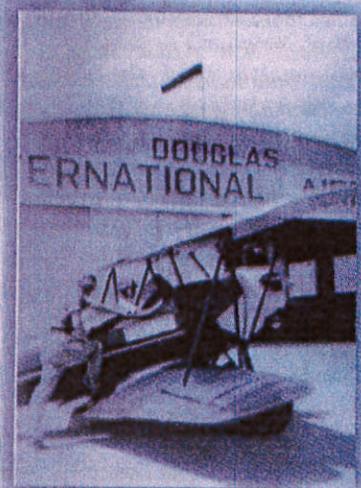
Brochure information compiled by:
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Douglas'

AMAZING

AVIATION

"FIRSTS"



Douglas • AZ

DOUGLAS' AMAZING AVIATION "FIRSTS"

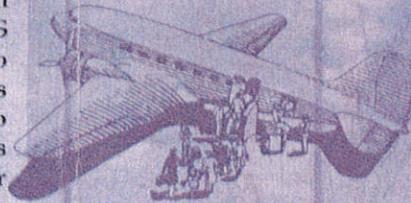
• 1908 The "Douglas Aeronautic Club" builds from mail order plans (we believe the plans came from Glen Curtis due to sophisticated ailerons) the **FIRST** aero plane in Arizona. It was pulled aloft by a pair of Quarter Horses! One year later an engine, propeller and wheels were added.

• Although this plane became legend as the "Douglas Bomber", there is no written, historical documentation that this plane ever bombed Pancho Villa's troops just across the border. However, we have photos and strong oral tradition reports that this was the **FIRST** aero plane used for military purposes (reconnaissance and later actual crude bombs being dropped).

• The Sonoran Constitutionalist commander was Alvaro Obregon, having seen the "Douglas Bomber" flying in and around Douglas/Agua Prieta, sent two of his colonels to San Diego, CA and ordered their own bomber, the "Sonora" from Martin Aviation. Obregon greatly appreciated the military potential of the aero plane while Pancho Villa, of the Revolutionary Forces did not. Here again, we have oral tradition evidence (corridas from the Columbus, NM battle) that Pancho Villa was flown out of Columbus during that raid on the US. We do know that Obregon did fly in the "Sonora" in a very brief flight at his Hermosillo headquarters.

• The "Sonora" bomber was being shipped from San Diego to Tucson where it was held up by US Customs, reluctant to allow the plane to go into Mexico due to the mandate that no weapons or tools that may be used as weapons be allowed into Mexico due to the revolution. The crates that the airplane was being shipped in somehow "disappeared" and later it shows up, flying in Hermosillo with her mercenary/US Pilot Didier Masson. By this point in the revolution, Obregon was garrisoned in Hermosillo. It is ironic that legend has it that the "Douglas Bomber" disappeared in the Hermosillo area in 1913 and was never seen again!

• We believe another "First" occurred when the respective pilots of the two "enemy" aircraft took shots at each other from their respective aero planes in these skies. This would be the first "dog fight"!



• Another infamous "First" occurred when the American mercenary pilot, Didier Masson accidentally dropped his bomb on Naco, AZ instead of Naco, MX where he was bombing Mexican Federal troops. The first time the US was ever hit by a bomb from a foreign aircraft.

• As the revolution moved further westward, the "Sonora's" main mission was to bomb the 5 Mexican Navy warships in the Sea of Cortez at the Port of Guaymas as they were lobbing shells on the armies located there. Again we have another military "First" when one of the Sonoran bombs almost hit a US Naval war ship stationed there to monitor the revolution.

• Douglas Municipal International Airport is created jointly with Agua Prieta in 1929. It is quite literally an "international airport" as the pilots can taxi directly into Agua Prieta as the North/South runway is contiguous to the Mexican runway. The same is true for Mexican pilots as they can use the same runway and taxi onto the Douglas side. Douglas is the very **FIRST** Int'l. Airport in the US.

• Eleanor Roosevelt, in 1933 is the first "**First Lady**" to fly from the East Coast to the West Coast and Officially Designates Douglas Municipal as the **FIRST INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT IN THE US!**

• Contrary to popular legend, Amelia Earhart was not in the flight crew that flew First Lady Roosevelt into Douglas that June 5, 1933. The Ford Tri Motor was an American Airways out of Washington DC that terminated in Los Angeles, CA.

• Amelia Earhart and many famous female pilots had flown into Douglas Municipal Airport as part of "The Powder Puff Derby" air race from Santa Monica, CA to Cleveland, OH. These airplane races were extremely popular beginning in 1929 and continuing until the mid-thirties.

• Douglas Municipal International Airport has been in continuous operation since 1929 and today serves many entities such as medical air evacuation, mining interests, ranching, agricultural, political military, Federal, State and County functions.