



# WATA *Difference*

## WISCONSIN AVIATION TRADES ASSOCIATION

### State of Wisconsin Marks The Spot Where Lindbergh Once Flew

MONONA, WIS. – On the outskirts of Madison, Wis, in the community of Monona, Wis., was where the old “Royal Airport” was located – an airport once used by famed aviator, Charles Lindbergh and others. On November 6, 2005, the Monona Landmarks Commission dedicated a State of Wisconsin historical marker for the airport and in memory of Charles Lindbergh, who landed at Royal Airport in 1927 on his nationwide tour with the “Spirit of St. Louis” following his historic flight across the



Air/Vue Photo by Don Winkler

(L/R) Bob Wulleumier, Robert Skuldt, and Field Morey.

Atlantic.

Joining Lindbergh on that day was Howard Morey, who later became the first president of Wisconsin Central/North Central Airlines, Chairman of the Wisconsin Aeronautics Commission, and founder of Morey Airplane Company, and Morey Field in nearby Middleton, Wis. (now Middleton Municipal Airport-Morey Field).

Attending the dedication ceremonies was Morey’s son, Field Morey, and Robert Skuldt, who became manager of Truax Field in 1946 (now Dane County Regional Airport), located 5 miles north of the old Royal Airport. Also attending the ceremony was Bob Wulleumier, son of the late Louis “Louie” Wulleumier, who ran the fixed base operation at Royal Airport before moving his business (Four Lakes Aviation, now Wisconsin Aviation, Inc.) to Truax Field. Louie Wulleumier once road motorcycles with Lindbergh when Lindbergh was a student at the University of

Wisconsin in Madison, and before Lindbergh made his historic transatlantic flight.

The Royal Airport marker is located off the South Beltline Highway 12/18 where the South Towne Mall is now located between West Marine and Kohl's department store.

The day before the ceremonies in Monona, Field Morey was at AOPA Expo in Tampa, Fla., promoting his “Alaska Adventure” and “Rocky Mountain Adventure” flight training programs, and met Charles Lindbergh’s grandson, Erik Lindbergh, who re-created his grandfather’s 1927 New York-to-Paris solo flight in May 2002, in honor of the 75th anniversary of his flight, in a single-engine Lancair 300 (now Columbia 300). Morey likewise crossed the Atlantic Ocean in a Cessna 210 on September 7, 1980, with fellow aviator, Oliver Smithies, then a genetics professor at the University of Wisconsin.

Louie Wulleumier, Howard Morey and Bill Lotzer of Gran-Aire, Milwaukee-Timmerman Airport, were all original founding members of the Wisconsin Aviation Trades Association (WATA) in 1943. Their sons, Field Morey and John Lotzer, followed in their fathers’ footsteps and served on the WATA Board of Directors in later years. Today, Louie Wulleumier’s Four Lakes Aviation is Wisconsin Aviation, Inc. and is owned by current WATA President Jeff Baum. Morey Airplane Company and the Middleton Municipal Airport-Morey Field is managed by Howard Morey's grandson, Richard Morey, and Gran-Aire, Inc. is owned and operated by Bill Lotzer’s son, John Lotzer, who also owns Waukesha Flying Service in Waukesha, Wis. □

## WATA

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# Lindbergh Left Lasting Impression On One Young Lad

by Tom "Talespin" Thomas

MONONA, WIS. – Sunday, November 6, 2005, started off as a blustery day in Monona, Wis., with cloudy skies and threats of rain, but the show was going on, "rain or shine," noted the announcement. As the scheduled time of 1:30 pm arrived, the clouds were parting and the warmth of the sun greeted over 100 folks who'd come to the former site of Royal



Robert Skuldt

AirVue Photo by Don Winkler

Airport on Madison's south side, to witness the dedication of the Wisconsin Historical Society's newest monument.

The site was of the former Pennco Field, later becoming Royal Airport which flourished until 1938 when the new airport on Madison's north side was opened. Royal Airport was the training ground for a number of Dane County aviation legends that included Howard Morey, Louis "Louie" Wulleumier, and a young boy at the time named Robert Skuldt. Both Howard and Louie have been inducted into the Wisconsin Aviation Hall of Fame and were instrumental players at the airport as barnstormers, instructors and charter pilots during the 1920s and 30s. As Royal Airport's usefulness was restricted because of size and other issues, the new airport in Madison and eventually Middleton carried on the enthusiastic growth movement in aviation for Dane County and the state's capitol city.

Robert (Bob) Skuldt was one of the distinguished speakers at the dedication and told of his riding to Royal Airport on his bicycle on August 21, 1927. Bob said that there were so many cars parked on Broadway to watch as Charles Lindbergh landed, that he had to ditch his bike along the parked cars and run to Royal Airport in order to get there in time. His excitement drove him

on and he arrived in time to see Lindbergh circle the field three times, land at precisely 2:00 pm and climb out of the Spirit of St. Louis. Bob said he was so thrilled to experience that historic event that even though he was only 9 years old at the time, he knew from that day on, his life would be in aviation.

Field Morey, son of Howard Morey and also an inductee in the

Wisconsin Aviation Hall of Fame, also spoke of his father's flying activities during the 1920s that led up to Lindbergh's arrival. Like Bob, Field kept the crowd's attention with personal stories of his father's experiences. They included giving up his ride with Lindbergh to a young man who was also full of excitement and enthusiasm about the limitless opportunities now offered in the skies overhead. Field had just returned from AOPA Expo in Tampa, Fla., where he

met Lindbergh's grandson, Erik, who had signed Field's copy of a book on Charles Lindbergh.

It was a wonderful ceremony and other speakers gave testimonials as well. All agreed that the location where Royal Airport had been located was a most fitting site for one of Wisconsin's 500 historical markers. It is actually Monona's third historical marker and is located at the South Towne Shopping Mall. Interestingly, Monona's first two historical markers are on Indian mounds within the city. The Monona Mayor welcomed the crowd and was proud of his city and the role Royal Airport played in its earlier years.

It was an especially moving experience as the 100-plus attendees all shared the "spirit of aviation" which permeated the air around us. Much of Madison's and the nation's early aviation history was formed at this historic airfield. Not unlike the name given Lindbergh's plane which made that most historic flight across the Atlantic in 1927, the "Spirit of St. Louis," I'm sure the spirits of those early aviation pioneers who touched down on that hallowed ground were also with us that day. □

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