

11 # F12

MILESTONES IN ISLAND AVIATION

- 1927 First airplane lands on Island
- 1928 Islanders establish their own airport
- 1933 Claude Cornell purchases Island's first airplane
World's largest dirigible passes by east of Island
(13 June)
- 1936-38 Wally Arntzen makes regularly scheduled weekly
flights from the Island to Escanaba and Green Bay
- 1940 Town of Washington purchases airport for \$3500
- 1941 Dr. Dan Dorcester of Sturgeon Bay makes weekly
flights to Island to provide medical care in
absence of regular physician
- 1946 Air rescue mission on behalf of Dickie Bjaranson
- 1948 Surplus lights from Escanaba installed at airport
when Island gets electricity
- 1949 Federal government grants \$7200 to buy more airport
land and expand runways
- 1953 Lions Club sponsors first Fly In Fish Boil

- 1950-56 Ground Observer Corps activated; forty Island families involved
- 1968-69 Green Bay Aviation establishes daily flights to the Island during tourist season
- 1976-86 Dick Dawley establishes Scenic Aire Plane Rides and conducts air rescue searches for Coast Guard
- 1981 Terry Atkins' plane vanishes on a flight to Escanaba
- 1982 Wing-Air establishes weekly flights between the Island and Sturgeon Bay
- Four Minnesotans crash plane near airport (20 July)
- 1989-92 Butch Gordon experiments with aerial photography, homemade experimental plane
- 1991 Islanders establish E.A.A. Chapter 982
- 1992 Islanders establish Washington Island Flying Club; purchase plane
- 1993 E.A.A. Air Adventure Days for high school students

Compiled by G. Berquist
Washington Island Archives
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RELEASE TO DOOR COUNTY ADVOCATE
P.O. Box 130
Sturgeon Bay, Wisconsin 54235
Attn: Editorial Department

"Island Aviation Then and Now" will be the theme of a Washington Island Archives program, to be presented Thursday, July 15, at 7 p.m. in the Island Community Center.

The program will survey milestones in Island aviation from 1927 to the present and will feature the exploits of pioneer aviator Wally Arntzen of Escanaba, the construction of the Island airport in 1928, the Dick Bjarnarson rescue story (in which Dr. Dan Dorchester of Sturgeon Bay played a key role), the evolution of the Lions Club Fly In Fish Boils, and the recent establishment of both an E.A.A. chapter and flying club.

Panelists will include Goodwin Berquist, Dale Bjarnarson, Henry Nelson and Hal Dee.

A collection of historical photos and airport materials will be on display and slides will be shown. Admission charge is \$2.00.