
THEY WANTED WINGS

A History of Door County Aviation

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DEDICATION

This book is dedicated to Chan Harris, long time editor of the Door County Advocate, who gave his enthusiastic support for its writing. Much of the information came from the Door County Advocate and the Door County News, which was purchased by the Advocate in 1939.

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INTRODUCTION

We might ask ourselves, why did these people want to fly? Why did they want wings?

Bob Warner once asked Jack Draeb how he felt about flying. Jack answered, "It scares the hell out of me, but it's something not everybody else does."

Flying is not something everybody wants to do, not even as a passenger. Some people, even famous people, just simply will not fly. They feel that, if they travel on the ground, they at least have some control of their destiny. That's not necessarily true; road conditions, vehicle failure, the weather, driver fatigue and error may enter in. Flying, at least in commercial aircraft, according to statistics, is the safest way to travel, with the possible exception of bus travel.

But it takes an out-of-the-ordinary person to fly a plane. It takes self-confidence, as was demonstrated in the narratives of the lives of the people told about in this story. It took confidence and courage to fly in the service of this country and we must remember it took confidence and courage on the part of those who trained pilots, for they put their lives in the hands of the people they trained. We must remember the people who used flying to release Washington Island from its "Splendid Isolation."

These people wanted wings, but not just for themselves, but to help the people of Door County, and in many cases, to help preserve this country.