

CAREERS IN AVIATION THRU STEM?

THE AIRPORT IS A GOOD PLACE TO START

COMBINED WITH YOUR CLASSROOM PROGRAM IN SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING, & MATH

GET THE GEARS TURNING

ASK US: WWW.ANEairport.org

ANOKA COUNTY-BLAINE AIRPORT

BLAINE AIRPORT PROMOTION GROUP

TOURS AVAILABLE K-12

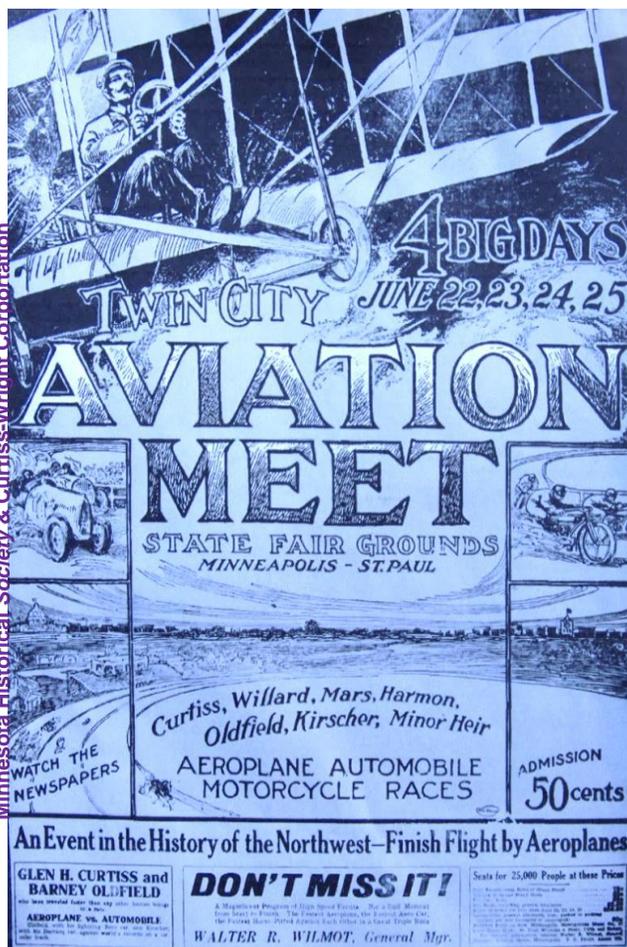
The First Air Show in

The first powered flight was made at Kitty Hawk, North Carolina in December, 1903, by Wilbur and Orville Wright. The public here, however, saw flying only when Glenn H. Curtiss and other aviators visited the Minnesota State fair to display their flying skills. These early exhibitions were immediately popular and through the years flying became increasingly common-place, but the public never lost its fascination with airplanes and the men and women that flew them.

In 1910 an association of the Minnesota State Fair and the Minneapolis Automobile Show Association contracted for the first air show in Minnesota, to be held at the Minnesota State Fairgrounds.

Glenn Curtiss, Charles Willard, J.C. "Bud" Mars, Lincoln Beachey, Barney Oldfield, Ben Kircher and Eugene Ely were the aviators and racers scheduled to be the performers. Dirigibles were also hired to fly along with the airplanes and on the ground, automobile and motorcycles races around the oval track in front of an audience of 12,000.

At 4:00 P.M., Curtiss received huge cheers from the crowd as he took off and reached a height of 50'. Strong gusts of wind forced the plane down at about 1/2 mile and a hard landing damaged the aircraft. It was repaired and Curtiss returned to the skies around 6:00 P.M. This time however, the high winds caused the aircraft to hit the ground nose first and roll. Curtiss was not injured, but the aircraft was a wreck.



State Fair August 21-Labor Day- September 1, 2014

On Thursday, using a Hudson Flyer with a 50 HP V-8, Curtiss made a spectacular five minute flight, circling the grandstand and flying out to the northwest. When he landed the crowd again cheered wildly.

On Friday, the weather report recorded wind gusts of 24 miles per hour making the takeoff of the Hudson Flyer difficult but resulted in Curtiss performing the show's best flying. The first two flights were four minutes apiece. The third time he flew an incredible ten minutes. Curtiss flew his fourth flight for seven minutes, for a record twenty-five minutes in the air in one day that covered from 25-30 miles.

Glenn Curtiss continued a flying circuit that included major cities on both the east and west coasts and cities in between to promote aviation and his designs. The Wright brothers also traveled extensively bringing their Wright flyer to major cities that included Europe.

Charles Willard was a Harvard graduate and race car driver who was the first aviator that Curtiss trained to fly and became the chief engineer for Glenn Martin and designed flying boats with Glenn Curtiss. J.C. Mars was the 11th pilot to be licensed in the United States. Lincoln Beachey became known as "The World's Greatest Aviator" even by his competitors. Eugene Ely was credited for the first shipboard aircraft takeoff and landing. Barney Oldfield was the first man to reach 60 miles an hour on an oval track. Ben Kircher also was a race driver in the same circuit with Barney Oldfield.