

Collection #
P0202

INDIANA AIRFIELDS PHOTOGRAPHS, CA. 1920S

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COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF
COLLECTION: 1 folder of photographs

COLLECTION
DATES: Ca. 1920s

PROVENANCE: Betty Raintree, Arcadia, Indiana, October 1991

RESTRICTIONS: None

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ALTERNATE
FORMATS:

RELATED
HOLDINGS:

ACCESSION
NUMBER: 1992.0157

NOTES:

HISTORICAL/BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Airfields became commonplace in Indiana after 1920. By 1923 airfields operated at a number of communities, including: Evansville, East Gary, Indianapolis, Kentland, La Porte, Marion, Newcastle, North Manchester, Seymour, and Wabash. Small landing strips or "emergency fields" existed in or near fifty-three centers. These locations included Boswell, Effingham, Ireland, Frankfort, Spencer, Sullivan, Vincennes, Auburn, East Gary, Marion, Rome City, South Milford, Crisman, and Waterford

Charles Miller of Huntingburg, Dubois County, Indiana, flew a Curtiss Jenny in air shows across Indiana during the 1920s. Miller, a barnstormer, taught at flying schools and became a flight instructor for British pilots during World War II. He later established a flying school in Florida.

Sources:

Items in the collection

Thumma, William. *Early Aviation in Indiana*. Elwood, Indiana: William Thumma, 1989.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The collection contains 9 black-and white photographs stored in one folder. There are 5 snapshots of buildings and landing strips at small airfields, and 4 snapshots of planes in flight. The photographs may have been taken at an air show as people can be seen watching in one image. The airfield in these photographs is wide, and there are no buildings or agricultural fields visible in the background.

Signs on the roofs of buildings visible in two photographs identify the locations of airfields at Vincennes and Kirksville, Indiana respectively. A portion of a rooftop sign visible in a third photograph shows the letters "am". This may refer to the village of Effingham, which operated a small emergency airfield as early as 1923. The landing strips in these photographs are on land bordered by cornfields.

An annotation, struck-out, in pencil, on the back of one image reads "Miller 2" [and] "Blum 1." Three other photographs include the annotation "Miller." The annotation may refer to Charles Miller, a barnstorming pilot who flew a Curtiss Jenny aircraft in air shows across the state during the 1920s.

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CONTENTS

9 black-and-white photographs (3 x 5 inches; 8 x 12 centimeters)

CONTAINER

Photographs:
Folder 1

CATALOGING INFORMATION

For additional information on this collection, including a list of subject headings that may lead you to related materials:

1. Go to the Indiana Historical Society's online catalog:
<http://opac.indianahistory.org/>
2. Click on the "Basic Search" icon.
3. Select "Call Number" from the "Search In:" box.
4. Search for the collection by its basic call number (in this case, P0202).
5. When you find the collection, go to the "Full Record" screen for a list of headings that can be searched for related materials.