

Aviation Roundup

Sunday Outing At The Beach Is Easy Via Light Airplane

By COURTENAY CARSON

A Sunday outing at the beach, which would have taken hours of hectic automobile driving and left little time for sport is pleasant and easy via plane.

Members of the South Carolina Aviation Association Breakfast club proved that on a recent Sunday, when the club met at Hunting Island beach, near Beaufort.

I accompanied E. C. (Buddy) Glenn on the trip in an Aeronca. It wasn't the newest plane in the world, but we were skimming over the gray sand of the coastal beach well under two hours from the time we left Columbia.

Hunting Island is a state park, but apparently has been much less well-developed than some of the other parks. However, there is a fine beach, and many of the club members who flew down from all over the state in more than 25 planes found swimming and fishing as good as at more popular spots along the coast.

After a picnic breakfast, served by Beaufort county officials, several Columbians decided to extend the trip, and fly to Savannah. Buddy and I took to the air in our green-painted plane, soaring from the hard, smooth beach sand into a stiff sea breeze, followed by several other light ships.

We flew low along the coast, most of the time a couple of hundred feet in the air, just offshore. An occasional fishing boat plowed slowly through the water below, in pursuit of schools of fish. The fish schools appeared from above as dark blue spots on the blue-green water. Frequently the dark spots were flecked with silver as the fish leaped clear of the surface.

The beach was barren most of the way, backed by dunes covered with lush and tangled foliage. Buddy said he'd once spotted a herd of deer from his plane as he flew over on a previous trip. However, we saw no sign of life.

Twenty minutes after leaving Hunting Island, we were circling Wilmington Island airport, near Savannah. The airport operator furnished us a car and driver to take us to the nearby Gen. Oglethorpe hotel, a popular resort spot. The Breakfast club is to meet at this hotel July 21.

The seafood dinner served us was delicious, and well worth the trip. Fresh shrimp cocktail and baked sea trout were the main menu items.

An unhurried departure put us back at the airport at 2:30, and we left the ground at 2:50. Northward over Ridgeland, and into Hampton county our course lay, over the flat pinelands of the coastal plains. In Hampton county, Buddy, who was riding in the back seat, suddenly leaned forward.

"That's my farm—over there by the edge of that woods," he said. "See the cornfield, with the wide strip running down the middle? I've made a landing strip there, so I can fly down for fishing and hunting."

He pointed out two lodges, a boathouse at the edge of the river almost hidden by tall swamp trees, and the area where the best hunting is to be found.

We flew on, dodging a couple of afternoon rain-showers, and landed in Columbia exactly two hours from Savannah. It was only ten minutes to 5 o'clock in the afternoon.

We had spent a pleasant, leisurely day, enjoyed the pleasures of two different resorts, and seen a variety of country. And we were back home untired, in time for supper.

One wonders if we'd still be on the road if we'd made the trip via automobile!

Inspection Deadline

The Civil Aeronautics Administration has warned plane owners of the July 1 deadline for annual inspections of airplanes, which must be made by a CAA staff member or designee.

In South Carolina inspectors are based at Camden, Spartanburg, Greenville, Orangeburg, and Columbia.

Cross-Wind Landings

The CAA has signed a contract with Goodyear Aircraft Corporation for investigation and development of cross-wind landing gear for small, high-wing airplanes. Successful cross-wind gear would permit use of more single-runway airports, the CAA says.

The "Super-Cruiser"

Opportunity to fly one of the new model light planes, the Piper "Super-Cruiser," came last week when a demonstration model was available at Owens Field. The three-place plane, latest in the "Cub" family, has greatly improved performance over previous models—chiefly due to its new 100-horsepower engine, and cleaner design.

Having previously flown the older models for a number of hours, the writer was surprised at the speed with which the new model gained take-off speed, and the speed with which it climbed. Once out of the traffic pattern at Owens Field, and

up to 2,000 feet with alacrity, power was reduced to cruising setting and the ship settled down to a comfortable 110 miles per hour indicated airspeed.

Rate of climb was then checked. From level flight at 2,000 feet, the "Super-Cruiser" climbed at 70 miles per hour to an altitude of 3,000 feet in 1 minute 30 seconds, or a rate-of-climb of nearly 700 feet per minute.

Easy handling, improved cabin design, a self-starter, and other newly-incorporated features give the "Super-Cruiser" many advantages over its forerunners in the "Cub" line.

Aviation In The News

An Army XA-26-F, partly jet-propelled, set a new speed-load record between Wright Field and St. Louis by averaging 413 miles per hour over a 1,000 kilometer course with a 1,000 kilogram payload.

The first mail-carrying flight of a jet plane took place June 22 when a P-50 "Shooting Star" flew from Schenectady, N. Y., to Washington in 49 minutes with a load of air mail. Average speed was about 480 miles per hour.

Chicago and Southern airlines will begin its first Latin American service next fall, on a Chicago-Havana route.

Pan-American airways anticipate approval of its applications to operate air routes within the United States, Juan T. Trippe, president, has informed stockholders.

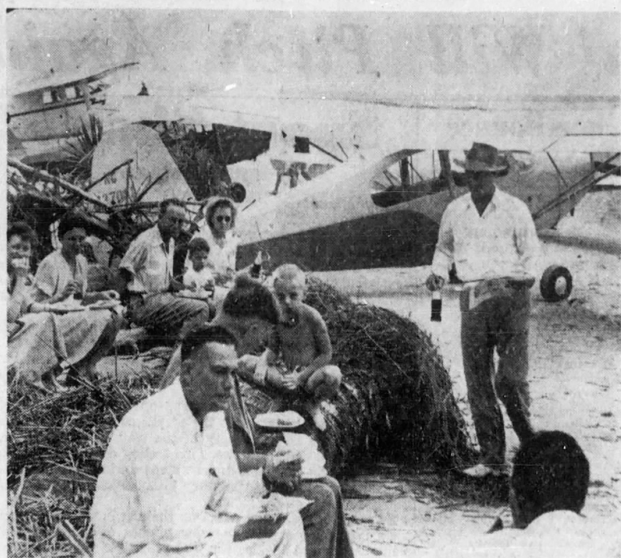
Northrop Aircraft company's huge flying wing bomber has successfully completed its first flight, which took place June 25 at Muroc AAB, California.

A new women's world record for gliding is claimed by Miss Madeleine Renaud of Paris who sailed for 12 hours 53 minutes in Southern France. Previous record was 12 hours 30 minutes set by two Russian women in 1939. Kurt Schmidt of Germany is officially credited with the men's record of 36 hours 35 minutes.

Pennsylvania-Central airlines has announced a new low-cost air freight service to begin July 15 which will link New York with 30 cities including Asheville, and Raleigh-Durham, North Carolina.

Delta Airlines has complained to the Civil Aeronautics Board that American and Eastern airlines are trying to block competitive service from the South to Washington.

OPERATION 'BREAKFAST'



BREAKFAST ON THE BEACH at Hunting Island, near Beaufort, was enjoyed by members of the South Carolina Aviation Association Breakfast Club last Sunday morning when the organization's pilots were

guests there of Beaufort county. Some of the members are shown above enjoying the picnic meal furnished by Beaufort officials; a few of the 25 or more planes which landed on the beach are shown in the background. (Photo By Jimmy Price).