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Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum Archives

A. Roy Knabenshue biographical information

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The Business

The Knabenshue Aircraft Corporation has been organized for the purpose of engaging in the manufacture and operation of airships of various kinds and sizes-particularly the rigid type dirigible.

It is the present intention of the company to build at once an all-American commercial modern rigid type airship (40 passenger) and to put it into service between the California Coast and Honolulu. This ship will not only embody all the best know safe, sane, and thoroughly dependable principles of other similar aircraft design used in this and other countries of Europe, but in addition, will have new and greatly improved Knabenshue features including every accommodation and comfort of the present day Pullman sleeper.

We confidently expect a very large tonnage via air at good profitable business rates covering heavy passenger travel, express matter and United States mail.

Investment Opportunity

Men and women of vision believe that stock purchased now in the Knabenshue Aircraft Corporation should not only prove a good, sound investment but also carry with it a substantial speculative feature. The potential possibilities of this Company are believed to be very great.

Conservative investors as well as speculators are invited to subscribe for such blocks of this stock as their financial means will permit.

Those who back this enterprise will not only perform a local and national service of great value and initiate an important undertaking in transportation, but will, we confidently believe, develop a highly profitable industry.

Investors are not asked to help finance years of highly experimental development as that work has already been completed by Mr. Knabenshue.

Advantages

Among the more outstanding advantages of the airship are:

- She does not have to depend upon her speed in the air in order to remain aloft.
- She does not have to make a forced landing in case of engine or other trouble.
- Repairs on engine can be made while ship is in transit without descending to the ground.
- Superior for flights over seas, mountains, wooded or broken country.
- Greater dependability for journeys involving non-stop flights of 1000 miles or more.
- Greater safety and increased comfort for passengers.
- Smoother riding with more room to move about.
- In bad weather a large Airship is in no appreciable danger, for she can go round a storm or rise and go over it or wait at one side for the storm to pass or for good weather in which to land or with comparative safety go directly through the storm.

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The Modern Trend Toward Lighter-Than-Air Craft Easily Explained



Knabenshue Airship at Pasadena, California, 1917-1918

Continuous operation for three months. Carried hundreds of passengers.

Ship measured 140 feet in length by 30 feet in diameter and displaced 10,000 cubic feet.

10 horsepower gasoline engine.

Maximum speed 14 miles per hour.

Knabenshue Aircraft Corporation
SAN ANTONIO
Principal and General Manager

"We are confident, as indicated and fully stated above, that our company will be successful in the future." -Advertisement

GENERAL OFFICE
1400 WASHINGTON STREET
SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS
PHONE 1004

The Airship is essentially a long distance larger carrying craft for passengers and heavy cargo.

Railroads, Steamships, Telegraph and Telephone, Automobile, Radio- and now comes another outstanding development-Lighter-than-Air Ships, which in all probability will equal, if not surpass, the auto.

"Transoceanic flights within the next few years in dirigibles six times the size of the Los Angeles and carrying hundreds of passengers safely and comfortably," were predicted by Commander C.E. Rosendahl of the United States Navy in charge of the Lakehurst Air Station, speaking recently before graduates of Harvard School.

The
Modern Trend
Toward
Lighter-Than-Air
Craft

Easily Explained

"Of all inventions, the alphabet and the printing press alone excepted, those inventions which abridge distance have done most for civilizations."

-Macaulay

[[Image.]]

Knabenshue Airship at Pasadena, California, 1913-1914

-

Continuous operation for thirteen months. Carried hundreds of passengers.

-

Ship measured 150 feet in length by 30 feet in diameter and displaced 76,000 cubic feet.

-

30 horsepower gasoline engine.

-

Maximum speed 32 miles per hour.

-

Knabenshue Aircraft Corporation Roy Knabenshue
President and General Manager

A. Roy Knabenshue biographical information
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