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Hattie Meyers Junkin Papers - Newspaper articles, 1932 - 1936

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August 19, 1932
The Washington Daily News

AVIATION
By BOB BALL

Rain replaces dust and speed trials are delayed; humor and pathos mixed with work; Comdr. Barnaby entertains fliers at home

Well, we all complained about Wednesday's dust and heat, so yesterday we got rain---and heat. And as far as Derby preparations are concerned I guess the dust is preferred.

At least I never heard of dust postponing a speed trial. That's what yesterday's rain did. As a result the trials are less than half completed. But the timers and testers are toiling like Trojans and everybody expects (or hopes) the trials to be completed by Saturday night. Even the actual tests are completed the mathematicians must labor over pages and pages of figures and work out the handicap for each plane.

There has been a bit of humor and pathos mixed in with the work, tho. The boys down on the Navy pier at Bellevue, who are judging the trials, had a scare the other day. The Navy was doing some testing of its own. Just practicing with some 2000-pound torpedoes.

They were shooting the things out into the river just to see if they would go straight. But one of them had evil intentions, or got timid out in the deep water, turned around and headed for shore.

It happens that the shore at that point is occupied with a tent housing the delicate photographic electric timing instruments for the speed trials. On came the torpedo, twisting violently in the water. With a thud it hit the bank. But nothing happened. At least that's what the men found out when they came back.

It was only a smoke bomb gone wrong.

There was some heart-rending pathos, too.

Jack Wynne, chief judge, was taking an assistant judge down to the pier in a speedboat. Halfway down the river they met another boat bearing reporters and cameramen.

A couple of them wanted to board Wynne's boat to go down and get some shots of the speeding planes. So they pulled alongside to effect the transfer.

The assistant judge (name omitted by request), hanging onto a hand rail, leaned far out to fend off the other boat. Out ripped the rail fastenings and down plunged the judge.

Trials have their judges, and judges have their trials.

Some of the boys down on the pier say that when Bill Payne streaked by yesterday in a little Monocoupe they could see the number on the top of the wing.

And that was from a 12-foot pier.

Comdr. Ralph Barnaby played host to the Derby fliers at his home in Wesley Heights Wednesday night. Everybody had a swell time.

las; Lieut. Lowe to Aberdeen in a Douglas; Lieut. Shulgen leading a flight of 11 Boeing pursuit ships to Langley Field.



NAVAL AIR STATION

In observation planes, Lieut. Pirie to Valley Stream, N.Y.; Lieut. Brown to Floyd Bennett Field; Lieut. Pihl to Floyd Bennett Field; Lieut. Farnsworth to Hampton Roads; Lieut. Lynch to Philadelphia; Lieut. Lee to Hampton Roads; Lieut. Comdr. Stump came down from Lakehurst in a fighter; Lieut. Ellis to Dahlgren, Va., in a trainer.

[[note]] [[?]]

Washington-Hoover Airport

C.P. Arras came in from New York in a Stinson; E.F. Ball flew in from Muncie, Ind., in a Waco; Art Killips flew down from Hagerstown, Md. in a Waco; Jim Ray took off this morning for Willow Grove, Pa., in an Autogiro. [[?]]

[[note]] [[? by Tuck Wade Way?]]

Derby Speed Trials Continue; Akron to Visit Capital Today

Formation Flying by Service Planes Also Feature; Poor Weather Slows Race Tests

With the crack of the starting gun for the Transcontinental Air Derby three days distant, speed trails continue to be the focal point of attention here.

But to the flash of the flights will be added today a trip or visit to the Capital by the Navy dirigible Akron, followed by formation [[?]] by service planes.

With only six trials complete Wednesday and inclement weather permitting only that many more yesterday, race officials find themselves faced with a big task in completing the testing of nearly 20 more planes.

MORE ENTRIES EXPECTED

Only two days remain for the running of the trials and several more entries are expected by Saturday night. Meanwhile timers and trial judges are working at top speed to finish in time for the take-off Sunday afternoon.

At noon today the Akron is scheduled to make a flight over the city. From 2 o'clock until 4 Army and Navy planes will participate in tactical problems and formation flying over Washington.

Both flights are being sponsored by the George Washington Bicentennial Commission and the National

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